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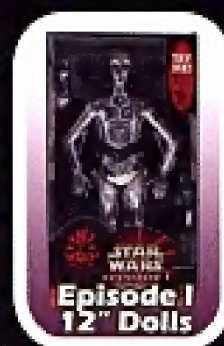
Unleashed



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Episode I
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Power of
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Shadows of
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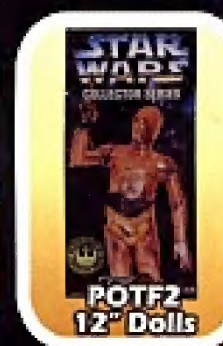
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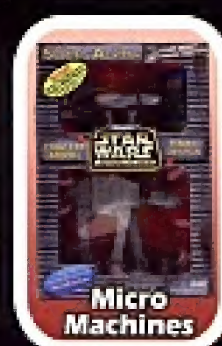
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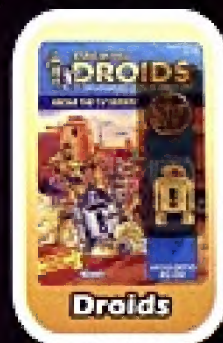
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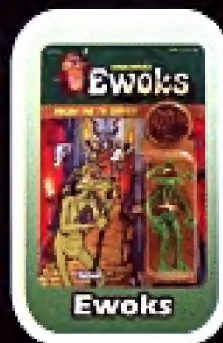
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Power of
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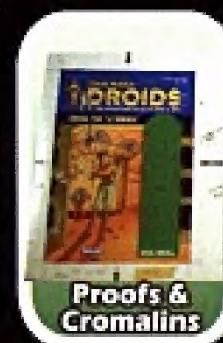
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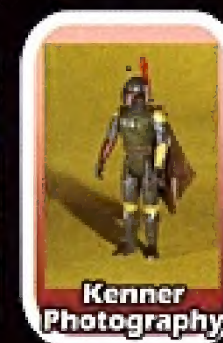
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the Jedi



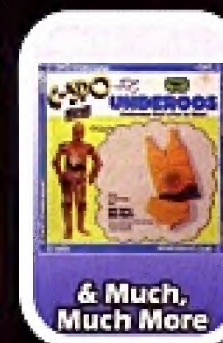
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Take note every time you see the Hyperspace logo—it's your cue to log on to starwars.com Hyperspace for more content!

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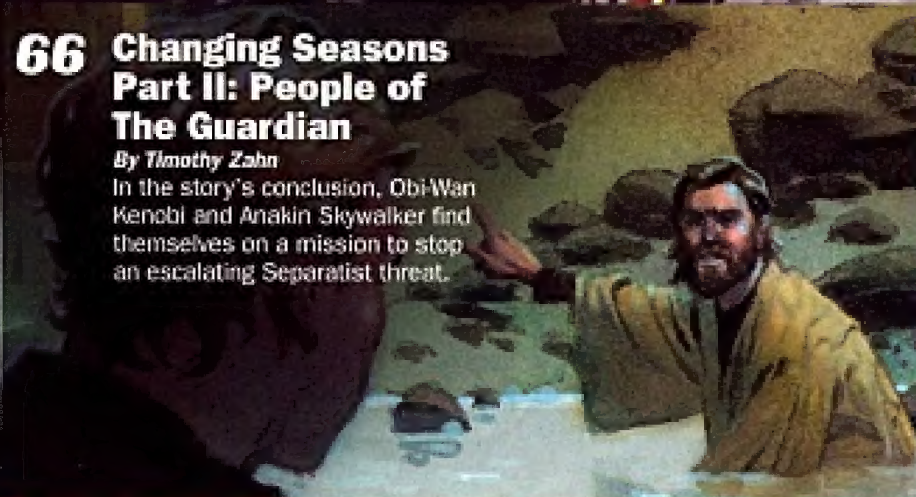
Fans have debated ever since 1983 about which scenes in the classic trilogy are the greatest. See if your favorite moment or moments is included within and then let the debates rage on.



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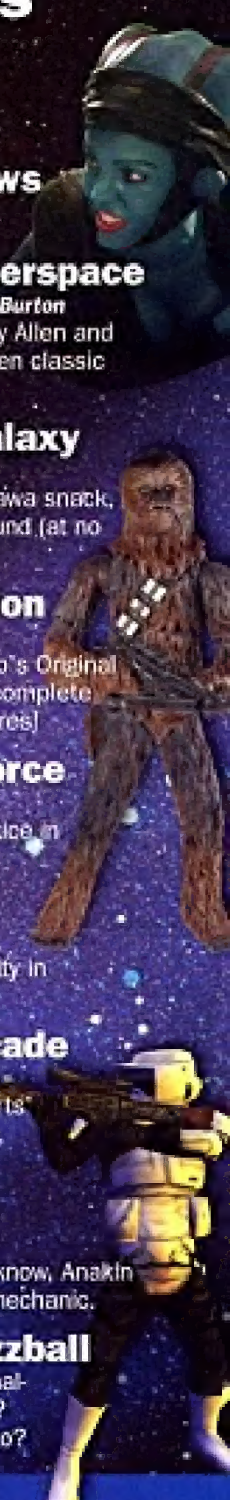
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A New Hope

Just as the twin suns of Tatooine rose in Episode IV to greet Luke Skywalker on the day that would forever change his life, a new day—or rather, era—rises to greet you, the fans of *Star Wars Insider*. Lucasfilm and IDG Entertainment have formed an alliance that is prepared to take the magazine in bold new directions, and the commitment to our audience—new or longstanding, young or old, Trandoshan or Rodian—is without measure.

IDG Entertainment (IDGE) is an industry leader when it comes to publishing. More than three million people a month read *GamePro*, IDGE's flagship video-game magazine of almost 15 years, and it is looking to bring its unique creative flair to *Star Wars Insider* and take it to the next level. The issue you now hold in your hands is only the beginning!

While reading the magazine, fans will notice that *Insider* looks a little different. The departments are the same, but we believe they now have more of a *Star Wars* feel to them to better bridge the gap between print and film. "Bookshelf" is now "Jedi Library" and "Toy-box" is now called "Jabba's Collection." The names are new, but our commitment to providing the same great in-depth content remains the same.

Furthermore, it is our goal to make each and every issue a special collector's piece filled not only with great content but also with the most dynamic imagery found in the original trilogy and Prequels. Speaking of which, the countdown to Episode III has already begun—May 19, 2005, is less than one year away—and it would be most unwise to miss a single issue! There has never been a better time to make the journey to that galaxy far, far away.

With each paid subscription, readers will also have full access to starwars.com Hyperspace as part of our collaborative efforts with Lucasfilm to bring fans even more exciting content and bind the *Star Wars* community still closer together. While reading the magazine, be sure to notice the Hyperspace icon—this is our visual cue to let readers know that they can go online and find even more information related to an article, whether it's a continuation of the piece or some relevant archived information that you may have never seen before.

Better yet, each issue will devote extra pages to the "Best of Hyperspace," which will contain featured content from the website as well as new exclusive content. And because we here at *Insider* are big fans of everything *Star Wars*, we are proud to announce that the longstanding fan publication *Bantha Tracks* will also be featured in every issue. *Star Wars Insider* is truly a magazine by the fans and for the fans.

Our passion for *Star Wars* is just as intense as yours. We wear the T-shirts (ah, Princess Leia), play with our toys (do you have a vintage 12-inch Darth Vader with the cape and lightsaber?), and have heated discussions about which movie is the best (definitely *Empire*) and which character is the coolest (ahem, Boba Fett). If you only could have been a Death Star droid scurrying across the detention center floor when we had our discussion about the Top 10 moments of the original Trilogy (see the feature, starting on page 44). It was truly epic.

As the new editor, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of and to represent the greater *Star Wars* community, and it is my pledge to you, the fans, to be a strong voice and to fill each page with quality content in every issue. One Jedi cannot do it alone, though, and I want to send my sincere thanks and gratitude to Council members Dan Amrich, Katrin Auch, Lindsay Young, and Francis Mao for their strong devotion to getting *Star Wars Insider* off the ground and into your hands. Without them—and the team at Lucasfilm—this venture would not have been possible.

This is definitely a great time to be a *Star Wars* fan, and it's an even better time to be a subscriber to *Star Wars Insider*. I invite you to join our ranks and take the fast-paced journey as we rocket toward the future and close in on the historic day when the circle of films will be complete.

Until next issue, may the Force be with you!

Brett Rector, Editor-in-Chief

HEY! We want to hear from you. Do you like our new look? Do you have an awesome idea or story that you would like to see featured in this very magazine? Feel like just dropping us a line in Aurebesh? Log on to idgentertainment.com/starwars today! While you're at it, take our quick survey for a chance to win more than \$500 worth of the latest *Star Wars* gear. Responses are limited, so visit right now!

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Welcome, Star Wars Fans

Hello, Star Wars fans, and welcome to the new, modified letters section, now called "Comlink."

Why Comlink? We here at Star Wars Insider felt it defined the exact purpose of this section: a way for fans to communicate directly with us, either by galactic snail mail or at lightspeed via the Internet. (Not to mention that Luke used a comlink to communicate with C-3PO and avoid certain disaster in the Death Star's trash compactor in Star Wars: A New Hope—but don't worry, we'll never turn our Comlink off!)

As always, we want to know what's on your mind—no matter what the Star Wars topic may be. So, please keep your letters coming, or e-mail us at comlink@insider.starwars.com

The Fiction Faction

I'd like to compliment you on your wonderful magazine. I always look forward to receiving it in the mail and can hardly wait to tear into it once I get it. I'd like to especially compliment you on your fiction section. I used to flip right through it, but in Issue 75, my interest was piqued by the short story, "Or Die Trying." I was amazed at how good that story was! In the Bookshelf section of that same issue, there was an article, "Mara Jade's Greatest Hits," which made me want to read all of the Expanded Universe books. The problem is I don't know where to start. Do you think you could include a chronological list of all the EU books to help out other fans and myself that are just starting to read them? That would be great. Thanks, and keep up the good work!
C.R. Gates—Fort Collins, CO

We're glad you stopped to smell the roses. We think the fiction department of *Insider*—which we are now calling "Jedi Library"—really is one of our best departments, and the original short stories we frequently showcase are just icing on the cake. Be sure to check out this issue's story from Timothy Zahn, "Changing Seasons Part II: People of the Guardian," which is a conclusion to the story that began in Issue 76. If you don't have that issue, you can log on to starwars.com/Hyperspace to read

Part I. And thanks for the suggestion of a chronology for the Expanded Universe books. We'll certainly keep that in mind for a future issue of *Insider*.

End of an Era?

After watching the final chapter of the Clone Wars microseries on the Cartoon Network, I felt a huge sadness. Since the animated production is supposed to be a precursor to the events of Episode III, I felt like I was watching the end of an era. Seeing General Grievous so handily dispose of a group of Jedi made me pause and think—not one of them stood a chance. It makes me wonder who will be his next victim and, more importantly, who will be the one to eventually defeat him? What truly frightens me is that by the time he is defeated, so many Jedi will have already lost their lives, which leads up to Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope, where the Jedi and their ways are long forgotten. I was wondering if it was just me who felt this way, or if there are other people who feel that when Episode III is released, it might just be the darkest, most touching and heartbreaking film yet? May the Force be with you.

Shaun Jordan—Nixa, MO

We too were very shocked to see General Grievous mow down so many powerful Jedi and with such relative

ease. However, his actions fueled a fire that we hope to see extinguished in Episode III. As for who will defeat him—well, it's anyone's guess. In case you haven't heard, the Cartoon Network will be airing five more episodes (12 minutes each!) in a Clone Wars miniseries that begins in March 2005 (see this issue's "Skywalking" section for more details). So, at least you'll get more of a taste of what to expect when Episode III is released next May. You are correct, though: The new film looks to be even darker and more sinister in nature than even *The Empire Strikes Back*, and that will be quite a feat, indeed.

All in the Family

My mom and I really like Star Wars, and we've watched every movie together. We absolutely can't wait to see Episode III. What do you guys do? Do you just answer fan mail?
John Appleby—Warrenton, VA

John, your letter brings back a flood of memories for the staff. Most of us sat in a theater next to our parents not knowing what to expect. It wasn't until the lights came on that any of us really knew what hit us, and none of us knew how the first trilogy would profoundly affect all our lives. As for what we do here at *Insider*? Why, we watch the first five films over and over again. We only pause occasionally to produce a magazine, which includes answering fan mail. But we wouldn't have it any other way!

Not Just Gibberish

I see all these symbols in the corners of your magazine and near headlines. I figure that they must be Basic. Can you tell me where I can learn it? Or better yet, could you put a section in the next issue that explains the meaning of each symbol?
Cody Gray—Shrewsbury, PA

Cody, many of us are beginning to wonder if you're simply seeing things because we can't find these symbols anywhere.

However, in the "Republic Holonet News" section (which is no longer running within the pages of *Insider*), there are a handful of symbols running down the sides and along the bottom of the page. These symbols are a written form of Basic called "Aurebesh." However, there are many written languages in the *Star Wars* universe, and we will definitely consider providing some explanation of each in future issues.

Consumed by Collectibles

I have been a loyal reader of Star Wars Insider since Issue 28—without missing an issue—and have been a diehard fan and collector of all things Star Wars since 1977. Now, at the age of 32, I continue to find myself giddy as a child at the sight of a new action figure I have not yet added to my collection. Over the years, I can say without a doubt that my favorite section is "Rebel Rumblings" simply because I love reading stories and seeing the collections of other fans. I am overcome with joy knowing that

I am not the only one consumed by a "galaxy far, far away...."

Ed Jordan—Leavenworth, KS

As with all our readers, we love to hear from everyone. To hear from one that is as longstanding as you is especially gratifying. As you can tell, there have been a few changes made to *Insider* (and by now, you must be accustomed to a little change throughout the years), but we hope you will continue to take the journey with us as we speed toward the conclusion of the film saga and beyond. As part of the "new" *Insider*, we are including *Bantha Tracks* in each issue, and it is there that we will feature stories and photos from other collectors and fans. Moving forward, we will use "Comlink" (formerly "Rebel Rumblings") to strictly answer letters. Now you can have your Wookiee cookies and eat them, too.

Love Story Or Galactic Conquest?

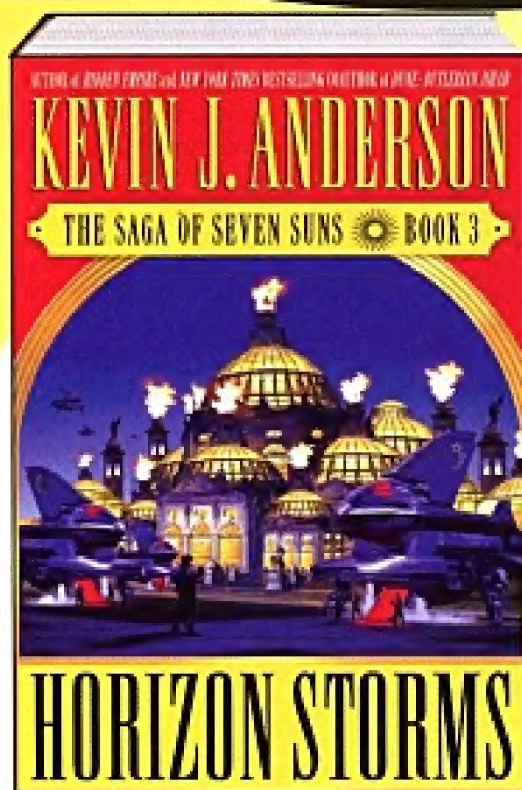
I would like to request more articles

on just Hayden Christensen and Natalie Portman. I was in the sixth grade when Episode I was released, and I simply loved it. My craze for Star Wars ended once I became a seventh grader. However, when I watched Episode II, I found myself specifically drawn to the love story between Anakin Skywalker and Padmé. I am now again obsessed with everything Star Wars. I feel like Anakin and Padmé's characters portray themselves as inspiring role models for the young fans of Star Wars. I hope you will meditate on this and fulfill my request.
Millie Symonds—Mt. Airy, MD

Millie, thanks for your letter. Most people never mention the touching love story that is happening within Episode II, and there are probably many young fans out there like you who view Hayden and Natalie's characters as positive role models. And while we feel "obsession" isn't always a good thing, it's great to know your passion for *Star Wars* burns anew, and we hope you will be with us the rest of the way as we move toward Episode III.

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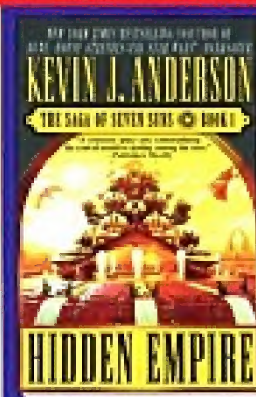
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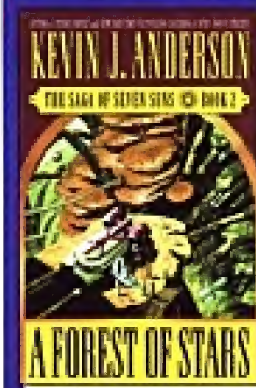
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The *Star Wars* fan experience.

If you're not a *Star Wars* fan, you may hear that phrase and immediately think of costumed fans camped out for months, waiting for the next *Star Wars* film. On the surface, our experience might simply look like a series of theater line camp-outs and Jedi Knight costumes.

But there's more....

Fans of the GFFA (that's Galaxy Far, Far Away for those who need a primer on *Star Wars* acronyms) know we have a rich experience and history. This issue of *Bantha Tracks* highlights what could be called a total fan experience: a fan and Hyperspace member on the film set of Episode III; a 'thank-you' from a fan to George Lucas and the saga creators; one fan watching *Star Wars: A New Hope* thousands—that's thousands—of times; local fan groups helping out their com-

munities; plus snapshots of fans just having fun with *Star Wars*.

Starting with this issue, *Bantha Tracks*, the newsletter all about fans celebrating *Star Wars*, will appear in every issue of *Insider*. In addition to the printed word, *Bantha Tracks* is now online with biweekly updates for Hyperspace members on starwars.com.

Read about some of the total fan experience in these pages, and then share yours with *Bantha Tracks*.



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- Rerun of the Jedi
- Thanks from a Fan
- *Star Wars* Dream Trip
- The Way We Were
- *Bantha Tracks* Art Galaxy
- *Galaxies* Fan Fest
- Fan.Tastic

RERUN OF THE JEDI

As of June 1, 2004, Devin Leyden had watched *Star Wars: A New Hope* 3012 times. That's 3012 viewings of the *Devastator* closing in on the *Tantive IV*. More than 3000 trench runs. Three thousand and twelve times that Han has shot....

Most *Star Wars* fans point to the films as the foundation of their fan experience, but it's fair to say Leyden has taken that experience to a whole new level.

How did he get started?

Leyden was 12 years old the first time he saw what then was called simply *Star Wars*. He and his friend Jason rode their bicycles almost daily past the old Sutter Theater in Yuba City, California, and the theater's advertisements for the coming space fantasy film attracted their attention.

"The theater staff put up butcher paper in the windows and had drawn TIE fighters and X-wings on the paper," says Leyden. "Jason and I knew we wanted to see it."

Leyden, who was a fan of Saturday sci-fi television, says he was expecting a movie like the TV shows. "When I saw the opening

crawl of *Star Wars*, my jaw dropped and hit the ground," he says. "You couldn't see the wires in *Star Wars*!"

He was hooked with the first viewing. Through the rest of the summer of 1977, Leyden would go to the Sutter and sit through *Star Wars* screenings all day. After five or six weekends, the theater owner told him he didn't have to pay anymore. When Leyden reached 100 viewings, the owner invited a reporter from the *Yuba City Appeal Democrat* to interview him. In fact, it was the theater owner, a true fan mentor, who first thought to keep track of the number of times Leyden saw the film.

After so many viewings, some may think the original *Star Wars* film would lose its luster, but for Leyden, some of the old magic remains.

"I still get a kick out of it," says Leyden. "*Star Wars: A New Hope* is still my favorite film. The story is exciting, and the characters are so well rounded."

The film invokes a powerful sense of nostalgia for Leyden, too, who says he can still see the Sutter Theater every time he hears the *Star Wars* theme.

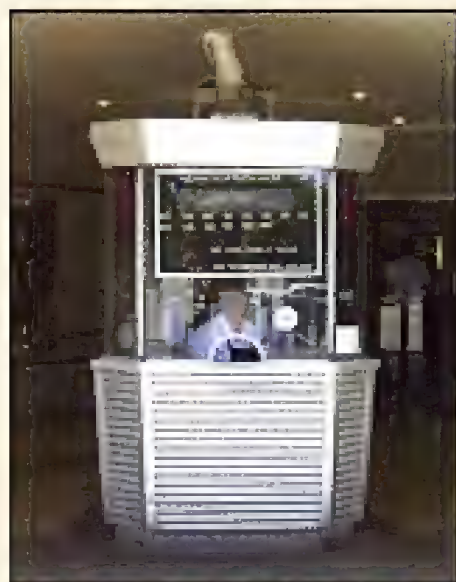
"I'm back sitting in the middle of the theater, too excited to eat



Devin Leyden outside the childhood home of his *Star Wars*-viewing obsession, the Sutter Theater in Yuba City, California



my popcorn until the Star Destroyer has flown away," he says. Some scenes make him stop what he's doing even now so he can watch the screen, too.



The ticket booth of the Sutter, which Leyden describes as being "a cool, old-fashioned, one-screen theater" back in 1977.

"I always look when the Tusken Raider surprises Luke," he says, "and when Han and Luke get the two stormtroopers' uniforms. I love the trench run and always watch the dogfight scenes."

Leyden has watched *The Empire Strikes Back* more than 600 times and *Return of the Jedi* more than 800. He may be looking forward to the DVD release of the original trilogy more than most fans.

"I've worn out four copies of the original film," he says. "I watch the Special Edition more now, because I don't want to wear out the last original that I have. I can't wait for the DVD release so I don't have to worry about wearing out tapes."

On the subject of the Special Editions, Leyden appreciates most of the scenes that were added.

"If I had my way, George (Lucas) would have to put back all the scenes he took out of the film," he says. "But it's George's galaxy, and he's given us a chance to come into that galaxy. I'll always be true to the fact that Han shot first...but I'm glad for what George has put in the film."

Any viewing goals for the future?

"I am going to try to hit 3500 viewings by *Celebration III*," he says.

Thanks from a Fan

Lisa Cameron-Norleet, a writer by profession, started this letter as a thank you to George Lucas, then realized, in her words, "that it was really much broader than one man, no matter how great his vision." She wrote her thanks not only to George but also to members of the cast, crew, and "any and all who make *Star Wars* what it is."

Lisa's words, reprinted here in *Bantha Tracks*, speak well for many of us who realize that because of the *Star Wars* saga, our lives are different.

Dear George and Crew:

If I sit and do the math, I realize that I have spent literally half of my life in a state of mild anticipation for the next *Star Wars* movie. I was six years old when *Star Wars: A New Hope* was released, and I remember the long gaps between the first few episodes as being full of impatience and speculation....

And to this day, I half expect the opening chords of the theme to follow the closing notes of the 20th Century Fox music, no matter the movie or television show. Such was the scope of the impression made on me back in 1977. Imagine the happy dance that my inner six-year-old did when *The Phantom Menace* opened. Imagine the repeat performance at *Attack of the Clones*. Imagine the final encore when *Episode III* is released.

I have no doubt that you are aware of the cultural touchstones you've created. Enough has been said and filmed and written about the saga, enough awards won and credits given to secure you all a place in history. But I

wonder if you've been thanked properly. Or, rather, I wonder if you can ever truly plumb and know the depths of gratitude felt by those of us who grew up with one eye turned toward that distant galaxy.

I'm sure that there are bigger *Star Wars* fans out there than yours truly. I don't own stormtrooper armor or props. I can count the number of my collective viewings only in double digits, and I have never claimed "Jedi" as my religion of choice. But the story is part of me, part of how my world was shaped, and, I think, is probably lies at the heart of my chosen profession (writer) and my love of myth, legend, and archetype.

You sparked my imagination at a critical juncture in development. You planted seeds that grew into educational pursuits and artistic endeavors. More than that, though, you somehow made it possible to fold time backward onto itself for two hours at a shot—all triggered by a few musical notes and text scrolling across a blackened screen. For that, you all have my unending appreciation.

It is hard for me to imagine what a "post-*Star Wars* life" will be like, and I suspect that the same might be true for many, including yourselves. I'll have my DVDs, my Obi-Wan action figure (who knew that Old Ben was such a hottie, back in the day?), and my inner six-year-old. You, I hope, will have the satisfaction of a story well told and well received. A classic in the truest sense of the word.

All good things to all of you.

Lisa Cameron-Norleet



Star Wars Dream Trip: To the Set of Episode III

While it's true that all *Star Wars* fans enjoy their own unique fan experience, few have been able to do what *starwars.com* Hyperspace member Amy Somensky did: sit near George Lucas on the set and watch him film the next *Star Wars* movie.

To celebrate the launch of *starwars.com* Hyperspace last summer, fans were invited to write a 100-word mock set diary about something they might see on the set of Episode III. The prize for the entry judged the best: a trip to Sydney, Australia, and a day on the set of Episode III shadowing Lucasfilm's Pablo Hidalgo. Hidalgo operated the webcam during filming in Sydney, which captured images from production for Hyperspace. His daily set diary and the webcam images were eagerly devoured by Hyperspace members around the world.

"I found out about the contest on the Official Site," says Somensky, a biologist from New Jersey. "I was checking probably every day to see what was going on with the webcam and to read Pablo's diary."

Somensky, who says she "doesn't write at all," is interested in Padmé's character and decided to come up with an entry based on the Senator from Naboo rather than on a technical aspect of filmmaking. She thought about her entry over the weeks, then wrote and edited it "in about half an hour" the weekend before the deadline.

On August 10, 2003, Somensky's entry was chosen as the best:

"It is common Star Wars knowledge that Padmé will become the mother of Luke and Leia. Saying that, today was Natalie Portman's first costume fitting

with a prosthetic belly. She is dressed in one of Padmé's numerous costumes, this one being a gown in a light shade of purple quite befitting a Senator and mother-to-be. As Natalie admires her pregnant self in the mirror, Ewan Mc-

there would be a lot of makeup and technical people, but there were people standing everywhere you looked. I know there would be time between takes, too, but was surprised how long and how much."

A highlight for Somensky was when Hidalgo found her a place to sit in front of the plasma monitors, the "video village" used by George Lucas and his crew for watching filming. "I was sitting probably three feet away from George Lucas,"



Amy Somensky holds a crossbow in the props department at Fox Studios, Sydney, Australia.

Gregor comes along and slyly congratulates Natalie on her new arrival. He asks who the father is. Natalie puts her head down, caresses her belly and mutters, 'Jar Jar Binks.'"

"The first thing I did was call everyone I knew," says Somensky about learning that her entry had won. "I couldn't believe it for a while; then it finally sunk in."

Somensky and her mother, a travel agent, were supposed to be in Spain the week that the trip to Sydney was scheduled. They quickly changed their plans, and the pair flew to Sydney together.

What impressed Somensky the most on the Episode III set at Fox Studios in Sydney?

"The first thing I noticed was how many people there were," she says. "I knew

she says. "I could hear everything he was saying; he would go back and forth to the actors on the set. He has a vision. He knows exactly what that is."

Somensky recalls that the actors seemed to have fun during the filming. "I noticed that Ewan would twirl his lightsaber around between takes, and he looked like he was enjoying it."

In addition to her time on the set with Hidalgo, Somensky toured the different sound stages, plus the prop, costume, and creature shops.

"The prop room was my favorite. There were toys everywhere," Somensky says. "You could sit on things, play around. That was awesome. Ty [Teiger, Episode III Property Master] was really into it and willing to tell you all about everything. I

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Approx. 104 minutes

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liked that they had a few "dead" battle droids on the floor. There was a whole table of guns, and a whole box full of lightsabers."

"It was cool to meet Pablo," adds Somensky, who says she thinks he looks different in person than he does on the webcam. "Pablo is our link to everything that's happening. The fans like when he comes on and chats; they call him 'Pabs.'"

Somensky notes that some people she knows seem to watch the webcam day and night. "I don't know how they do it," she adds. Somensky's strategy is to read the time stamps, find interesting things that have happened, then go and look at the specific shots she wants to see.

The trip to the set of Episode III was a fan's dream come true, to be sure. Is Somensky more excited to see the film now that she has seen the sets and had a glimpse of how the film is made?

"Definitely. The film is so far away, but once you actually see things and think about what's going to happen, it makes you more excited," she says.

Somensky is looking forward to seeing the Wookiees onscreen, saying she appreciates that bridge to the original trilogy. She adds that it will be sad to see Obi-Wan and Anakin fighting, considering their close friendship, but concludes, "It's a dark time. It has to be. The story at this time can't be light and cheery—it's the worst time in the galaxy."

Even after her visit to the set, Somensky has questions she wants answered in Episode III:

- Did Obi-Wan know Chewbacca?
- Will Padmé die?
- Will we see other characters that we know from the original trilogy in addition to Chewbacca?
- Will we learn why Dagobah seems strangely familiar to Luke Skywalker?

And here's a list of whom Somensky hopes to see next May:

- Grand Moff Tarkin. "I don't know if he'll be in there or not."
- A young Han Solo. "Even just walking around somewhere."
- Obi-Wan Kenobi "walking into the Tatooine desert delivering Luke to Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru."

Somensky plans to see Episode III at one of the charity screenings with her cousin Brian, who is, she says, "probably the biggest Star Wars fan I know besides me."

The Way We Were



1980. Pablo Hidalgo, Lucasfilm's webcam star and the brains behind *Insider's* "Ask the Master," pictured here with his mom and his brand-new X-wing.

Local Fan Events Coming Soon!

Chicago Force Summer Fun

This summer, Chicago Force gets back to what drew them to Star Wars in the first place: the movies! Backyard Drive-In Theater will be held on various weekends and will feature an LCD video projector with an 8-foot screen. In August they plan their annual Wizard World Dinner. Go to chicagoforce.org for more info.

Thanks to Philip Salaman

Bantha Tracks wants the scoop on your local fan club, too. Tell us how you got started, why your club is unique, how you revitalized a flagging club, or about your club's upcoming events. Please e-mail banthatracks@insider.starwars.com.

Halloween Submission Request

Calling all Star Wars costumers! *Bantha Tracks* wants your Star Wars Halloween costume pictures! In *Bantha Tracks* Issue #9, coming in *Insider* #78 this fall, we'll show off your Halloween creativity with a special gallery of Star Wars costumes from years past. From 1977 through 2003—any year, any character.

Thad Smoyer of Roca, Nebraska, sent us this photo from 1980, the year he dressed as the fearsome Sith Lord, Darth Vader.



Please send your photos to banthatracks@insider.starwars.com. You can also snail-mail photos to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, Lucasfilm, P.O. Box 10228, San Rafael, CA 94912. For more information, please see the *Bantha Tracks* submission guidelines on page 18.



Bantha Tracks Art Galaxy



Monte Moore of Denver, Colorado, created this illustration of Boba Fett, the infamous bounty hunter, pausing for a little refreshment.



Jawas, the scavengers of the desert, take the load, and the droid, in this pencil illustration by Ty VanBremen of Dade City, Florida.



Bantha and rider by Monte Moore



Bib Fortuna and R2-D2 by Ty VanBremen

Want to see your *Star Wars* artwork in print? Send electronic submissions to banthatracks@insider.starwars.com. You may also mail your masterpieces to **Bantha Tracks, c/o Mary Franklin, Lucasfilm, P.O. Box 10226, San Rafael, CA 94912**. For more information about submitting to *Bantha Tracks*, please see the guidelines on page 18.

Star Wars Galaxies Fan Fest

Online gamers meet face to face in Anaheim



From the Gorath server, left to right: Jeff Nichols (Rahien Darkstrider), Brett Dennis (Casus Belli), Anna Levanduski (Britann), Jason De Martino (Jay Hawk), Brian Arthur (Thriff)

On June 4 and 5, 1200 hardcore gaming fans descended upon Anaheim, California, for the first-ever *Star Wars Galaxies* Fan Fest. Players of Sony Online Entertainment and LucasArts' wildly popular massively multiplayer online role-playing game were able to meet each other in person, speak with the developers directly, discuss important game issues, and get a peek at what's coming on the *Galaxies* horizon.

Star Wars Galaxies players create their own characters for play in the online virtual *Star Wars* world, and the Fan Fest proved that the true drawing power of the game lies in these imaginative



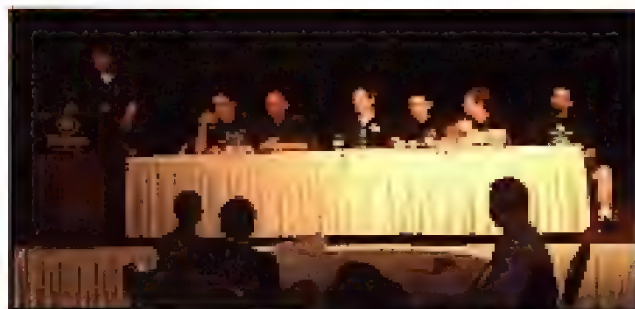
One of the pit stops in the Live Adventure was this fearsome trio, featuring Lead Designer Kirk Black.

fans. Players may have come to the fest for advice, news, and events, but many made new friends with whom they will share their passion for the game for a long time to come.

The ballroom of the Hilton Anaheim, decorated with spotlights of the Rebel, Imperial, and Mercenary insignias and with the shimmering gold *Galaxies* logo, was the focal point of the festival. Friday morning key *Galaxies*

team members met in the ballroom with fans, inviting comments and ideas. Lead Space Designer Cinco Barnes, Executive Producer Rich Vogel, Community Relations Manager Kevin O'Hara, and *Galaxies* Producer Haden Blackman listened to what the capacity crowd had to say.

"These games evolve and take on a life of their own," says Barnes, "and that's why we're here—to get your input."



The developers meet the fans.

Over the weekend the players attended forums and behind-the-scenes presentations, including art design and motion-capture sessions. The game, says its developers, is designed to grow.

"This game isn't about us, the developers," says Blackman, "it's about you, the fans. This is your game, your world, and we're here to serve you best."

A gathering of gamers cannot be all forums and panels, of course, and some at the convention enjoyed other games in their downtime. Many participated in a scavenger hunt in which they earned "credits" and prizes for antics like singing the *Star Wars* cantina melody and performing choreography learned from *Galaxies*' ubiquitous online entertainers.

The festival concluded with the rousing debut of *Galaxies*' first expansion, "Jump to Lightspeed."

Star Wars Galaxies fans have purchased half a million copies of the game and created 1.2 million characters. There are 120,000 individuals playing each day with 60,000 playing simultaneously each night across all the servers.

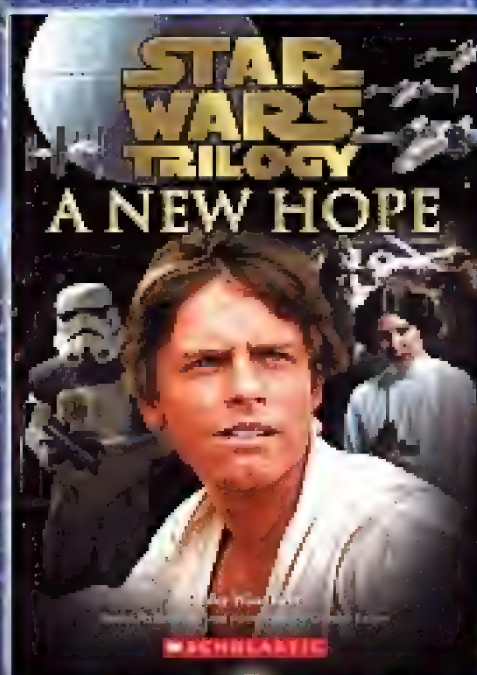
Thanks to Hugh Sterbakov



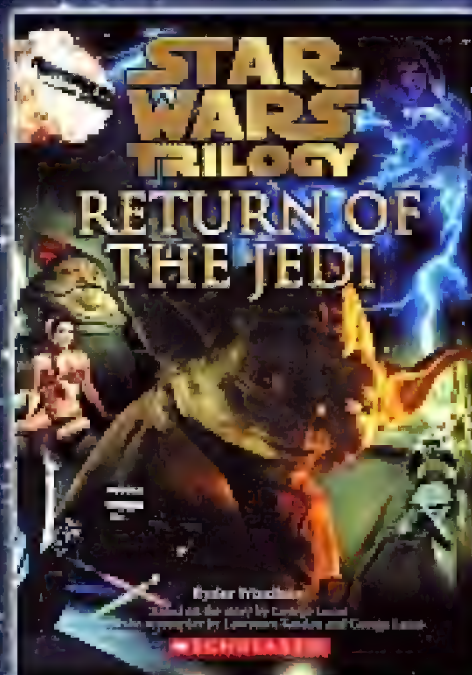
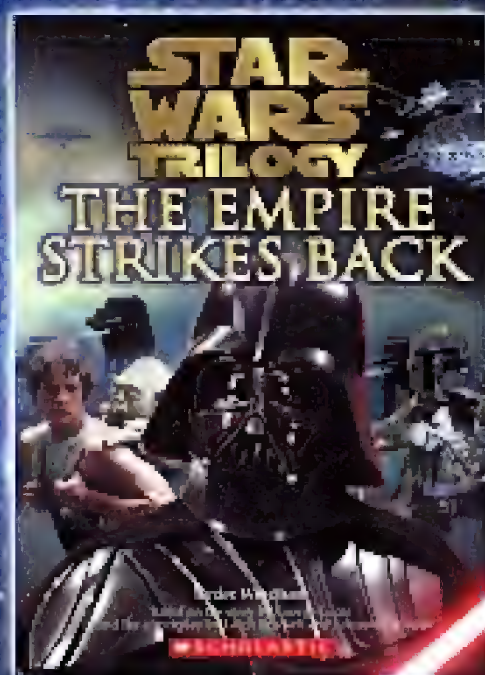
Fist of the Empire, the winning guild in the raid competition, rules the Bria server. (The players and their names.) Back row: Gendo Cold, Myel, Proelian, Ignatius, Rade; Front row: Vixxy, Snowxx

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Unity

California *Star Wars* fans got together for an evening they called "Unity" on Friday night, April 30 in San Francisco, California. Fans from the 501st Golden Gate, Central, and Sacramento Garrisons, from the Rebel Legion Endor Base, the South and East Bay *Star Wars* Clubs, the Black Fleet, San Francisco Fan Force, Sacramento Valley Rogue Force, and Bay Area Rogue Squadron gathered to honor the memory of their friend and fellow *Star Wars* fan Chanel Vanecek (read more on Vanecek in *Bantha Tracks*, Insider #73). Actor Mike Quinn (*Return of the Jedi*) and Steve Sansweet and Mary Franklin from Lucasfilm celebrated with the fans.

"I think the best part of the event was seeing so many people from so many different groups together in one room for a common purpose," says Bridget, a member of the Sacramento Valley Rogue Force. "Even people who had never met suddenly found themselves on common ground and started conversations like old friends."

Photo thanks to Karen Louie

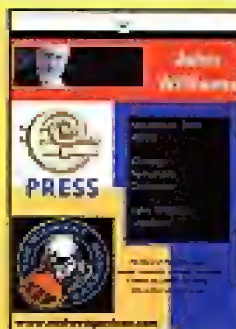


Maestro of the Force

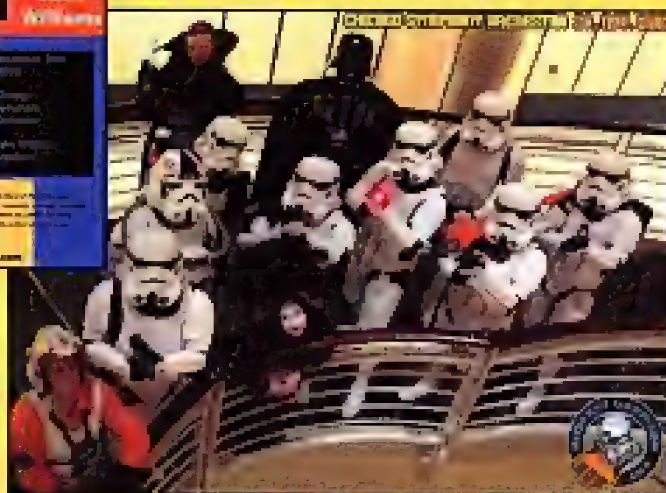
Members of the Midwest Garrison of the 501st Legion volunteered their services at *Star Wars* saga composer John Williams' concert at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Illinois, this past November. The Garrison, with the help of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra staff, presented Williams with an honorary membership to the Garrison and gifts, including the Garrison's embroidered patch and a 501st Legion polo shirt.

The Garrison helped usher guests to their seats and provided some *Star Wars* ambiance, then watched the sold-out show from monitors inside the hall. The performance included suites from *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* as well as music Williams composed for other films such as *Harry Potter*, *Superman*, *Jaws*, and *Hook*.

Thanks to Kathy van Beersingen



Left: Souvenir 501st pass from the John Williams concert in Chicago featuring the Midwest Garrison logo



At Last, We Will Read to the Jedi

The *Star Wars* Society of San Antonio donned costumes and makeup, and helped make the 2004 "Read Across America" an event that the students at Meadow Village Elementary will not soon forget. Pictured is member Rudy Gutierrez reading to attentive youngsters.

"The students responded with much enthusiasm to the costumed characters by asking for autographs as well as asking questions," says member Peter Gonzales. "Our group is hoping to make this a yearly event at Meadow Village."

Thanks to Peter Gonzales

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Editorial

And What's in It for Me?

This spring, the Official Star Wars Fan Club came home to Lucasfilm.

If you are a member of Hyperspace: The Official Star Wars Fan Club or if you read about the change on starwars.com, you've heard the phrase 'home to Lucasfilm' already. And you might have wondered just exactly what it means for you.

You might have read the ads that list the specific benefits of the remodeled Club: members get exclusive discounts and purchase power at the online store, StarWarsShop.com; they enjoy the great online benefits of Hyperspace, including Episode III documentaries, exclusive photos, and features; and they receive *Star Wars Insider*, the official magazine. You've heard about the members-only Fan Club breakfasts and exclusive benefits at the really big event: *Star Wars Celebration III*. And if you read about the Fan Club breakfast at Comic-Con, you know that the fans received some cool vintage collectibles from Lucasfilm's Licensing archives.

Lots of stuff. Lots of benefits. Lots of talk. But is this really a better Fan Club?

From where this fan sits, yes it is. Remember when you got your old *Bantha Tracks* newsletters and you knew they came right from Lucasfilm? There was excitement knowing your Star Wars news came from the source and a kind of comfort knowing that people at the company that created your favorite films

were taking the time to fill you in. The team that produces Hyperspace, the Star Wars Online Store, and *Bantha Tracks* are right here at Lucasfilm, right at the center of the action.

With the Fan Club home at Lucasfilm, you can attend a special event knowing someone from Lucasfilm helped plan the fan programs and schedule the guest stars.

When you get your bag of collectibles at the next Fan Club breakfast, you'll know someone from Lucasfilm dug through the boxes on the shelves and dusted off the gifts for your bag.

Lucasfilm is spending so much time on Star Wars fans because Lucasfilm cares about the fan community and wants to be directly involved with it. There's a lot to do with making a film, marketing it, and licensing merchandise, but the staff at this relatively small company wants to help continue to build an active fan community that will last for years.

It's both comforting and exciting. And it bodes well that the Official Star Wars Fan Club will be with us for years to come.

Get in the Track!

Mary Franklin

Editor, *Bantha Tracks*

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Lisa Stevens, President of the Official Star Wars Fan Club and CEO of Palzo Publishing, for the opportunity to work on *Bantha Tracks* while I worked for her at Palzo. Lisa reintroduced *Bantha Tracks* and worked hard to make the Fan Club into a community again.



Bantha Tracks Submission Guidelines

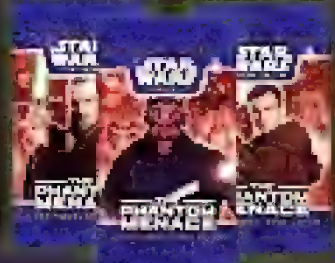
Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of *Bantha Tracks*. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions to *Bantha Tracks* will not be returned. Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact information, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, created by the person submitting it, and that the person is a member of Hyperspace: The Official Star Wars Fan Club. Send electronic files to banthatracks@insider.starwars.com, or send your snail mail to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, Lucasfilm, P.O. Box 10228, San Rafael, CA 94912.

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Star News and Sightings from Around the Galaxy

From the World of Lucasfilm

"Let the Force Flow Through You"

Details About the Star Wars Trilogy DVDs Released

Unless you've recently been living in the swamps of Dagobah, you're well aware that the original trilogy DVDs are set for release on September 21, 2004. In addition to the films, fans will be treated to more than 10 hours of bonus material. "Knowing how excited *Star Wars* fans are about this release, we're working very hard to make the films look and sound spectacular and to deliver a DVD collection that will be truly memorable,"

films in the *Star Wars* trilogy. *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*, *Episode V The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Episode VI Return of the Jedi*, will be newly restored and remastered by renowned firm Lowry Digital Images and presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround EX. Each film also includes new commentary by George Lucas and cast and crew members, including director Irvin Kershner, actress Carrie Fisher, sound designer Ben Burtt and Industrial Light & Magic's Dennis Muren.

A fourth disc in the collection includes an additional four hours of added-value material that brings remarkable new depth and insight into the making of the three films and the broader *Star Wars* saga.

The cornerstone of this fourth disc is *Empire of Dreams: The Story of the Star Wars Trilogy*. The two-and-a-half hour documentary traces the evolution of *Star Wars* from a low-budget, labor-of-love space saga to a movie phenomenon that defied the odds and reinvented the rules. At its core, *Empire of Dreams* tells the story of an independent filmmaker who had to innovate and invent an entirely new way of creating motion pictures.

Featuring all-new interviews with Lucas and more than 40 members of the cast and crew from all three films, *Empire of Dreams* also includes appearances by a host of filmmakers and media personalities along with never-before-seen behind-the-scenes footage from the making of the three films. This new documentary brings viewers the most comprehensive look yet at a filmmaking pioneer who triumphed against the odds to create an enduring modern fairy tale that has captivated the world.

Be sure you're onboard with us for *Star Wars Insider* #78 when we take a complete in-depth look at this spectacular collection.

"The Circle is Now Complete!"

Episode III Release Date Announced

It's now time to put speculation and rumor aside as the release date for the final film in the *Star Wars* saga is officially set. *Star Wars Episode III* will be released in theaters in the U.S. and Canada with a near-simultaneous worldwide release on Thursday, May 19, 2005. Moviegoers in Japan will have to wait until July 2005, which is the traditional month for *Star Wars* premieres. Exact information for other countries outside of the U.S. and Canada is coming shortly, so keep checking starwars.com for full details as May 2005 approaches.

In North America, May has been the longstanding release month for *Star Wars* films, dating all the way back to *Episode IV* in 1977. As an interesting aside, here are the North American release dates for the previous films in the *Star Wars* saga:

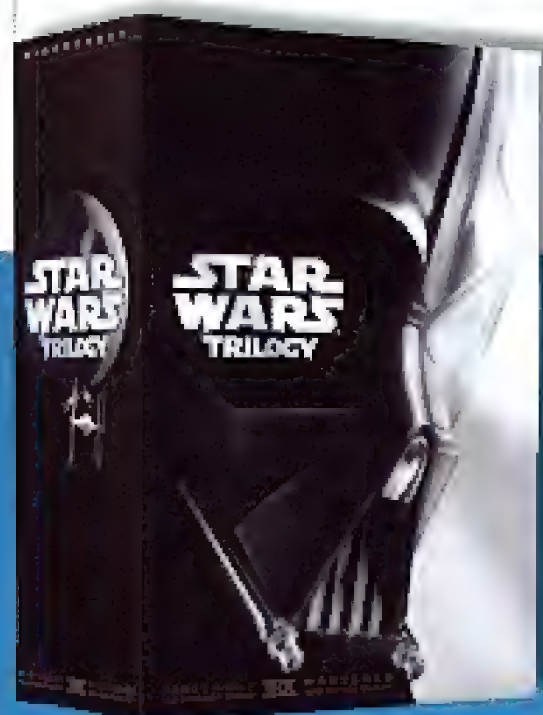
Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope:
May 25, 1977

Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back:
May 21, 1980

Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi:
May 25, 1983

Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace:
May 19, 1999

Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones:
May 16, 2002



said Jim Ward, vice president of marketing and distribution at Lucasfilm Ltd., and the DVD's executive producer.

Available in both widescreen and full-frame formats in the U.S. (and widescreen only internationally), the three



Return of the Clones

**Newly Created One-Hour
Animated Miniseries Coming
March 2005**

Following the galactic success of the animated *Star Wars: Clone Wars*, Lucasfilm Ltd. and Cartoon Network will present five action-packed nights of a brand-new *Clone Wars* miniseries from award-winning animator Genndy Tartakovsky, which will air March 21–25, 2005.

While the original episodes of *Star Wars: Clone Wars* were just three minutes long, each installment of the new *Clone Wars* animated miniseries, which has yet to be titled, will be 12 minutes, promising viewers four times the excitement, adventure, and intrigue as they lead into the long-awaited *Star Wars: Episode III*, scheduled for worldwide release in theaters on May 19, 2005.

Tartakovsky (*Samurai Jack*, *Dexter's Laboratory*), who produced the first highly rated, critically lauded "micro-series," will serve as director, co-screenwriter, and executive producer of the new *Star Wars: Clone Wars* animated miniseries. Cartoon Network will air the new miniseries with limited commercial interruptions.

"We were really impressed with the quality of the animation and the storytelling abilities that Cartoon Network and Genndy brought to the first *Star Wars: Clone Wars* episodes, and clearly viewers were, too, because the feedback we received about the micro-series was fantastic," said Howard Roffman, president, Lucas Licensing. "This new miniseries will bring even more depth and excitement to the story of the *Clone Wars*, and will lead viewers right into the adventures of *Star Wars: Episode III*."

"It is a tremendous honor for Cartoon Network to have been selected by Lucasfilm to produce these new *Star Wars* stories because the *Star Wars* saga is one of the most popular and successful entertainment properties in the world," said Jim Samples, executive vice president and general manager, Cartoon Network Worldwide. "Genndy thoroughly enjoyed the collaborative relationship we built with Lucasfilm during the production

of the first *Clone Wars* episodes and is terribly excited now to be entrusted with furthering the story line and working with such popular and enduring characters. This will truly be a 'must-see' for *Star Wars* fans and animation lovers."

Star Wars: Clone Wars continues the saga where the popular feature film *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones* left off and features such fabled characters as Yoda, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Padmé Amidala, Mace Windu, and Anakin Skywalker. The new miniseries will include an expanded role for a new villain, General Grievous, the military leader of all the Separatist armies who will play a pivotal role in *Star Wars: Episode III*.



"Yes, Your Highness"

**Queen Attends Orchestra
Centenary Featuring Theme
to *Star Wars***

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh joined the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, for its centenary concert at London's Barbican.

The royal pair chatted with fellow guests prior to the concert, held in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal 2004—Music and the Arts for Everyone. Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell and Arts Minister Estelle Morris also attended the concert. The LSO's first concert took place on June 9, 1904, at London's Queen's Hall.

The 100th anniversary concert was broadcast live on Radio 3 and BBC Four, and began with the national anthem, led by the orchestra's principal conductor, Sir Colin Davis. The concert included

the last movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, a nod to the debut concert in 1904, which included the same piece. Wednesday's repertoire also included the theme to the film *Star Wars*, originally recorded by the LSO, and Mozart's *Ch'io mi Scordi*. Cash raised from the ticket sales will be used to boost the profile of music and arts education and community projects in London.

"Can You Feel This?"

**THX 1138 Makes DVD Debut on
September 14, 2004**

George Lucas' widely influential first film, the prescient futuristic adventure *THX 1138*, will debut on DVD September 14 from Warner Home Video in a two-disc Collector's Edition that will feature *The George Lucas Director's Cut* of the film and will retail for \$26.99. *THX 1138* will also be available in a single-disc version with limited special features and will sell for \$19.97. Both versions will feature a complete digital restoration and will be presented in widescreen format (16x9 2.4:1) and Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound.

Made in 1971, *THX 1138* marked the stunning debut of one of the screen's most innovative filmmakers and was produced by Francis Ford Coppola and his revolutionary American Zoetrope studios. Produced at the height of the American independent movement, *THX 1138* stars Robert Duvall in a thought-provoking and visually rich exploration of a theme that would repeat itself throughout Lucas' career: one man's quest to realize his own potential amid an oppressive society.

"*THX 1138* is how I saw 1970. It was designed as a metaphor for the way we were living at the time," Lucas said. "The world has taken a strange twist from there, but I think the ideas that we examined in *THX 1138* are still valid in the 21st century."

Coppola said, "We were intent on nothing less than changing the way movies were being made. The friends who made the move to San Francisco together with me in the late 1960s were remarkable filmmakers. Looking back, it



was an extraordinary and defining experience for all of us."

In addition to the film, the DVD release of *THX 1138: The George Lucas Director's Cut* offers two new documentaries, including *A Legacy of Filmmakers: The Early Years of American Zoetrope*, a fascinating chronicle of the birth and rise of the radically different independent studio founded by director Francis Ford Coppola. *THX 1138* had been positioned as the first in a slate of films from the newly established independent studio.

Although its original theatrical run was short, *THX 1138* attracted an enormous following, particularly among college students, and became one of the most influential films of its time. Lucas said, "We wanted to make a different kind of film, and I hope that when audiences see it today on DVD they will find it to be as intriguing as we envisioned."

"We are thrilled to be releasing this landmark movie, which gave the world notice of what was to come from this legendary filmmaker," said Michael Radloff, WHV's vice president of theatrical catalog marketing.

Jim Ward, vice president of marketing and distribution for Lucasfilm, said, "The DVD experience is going to be fantastic both for the film's longtime admirers and viewers who are discovering it for the first time. From both a visual and aural

standpoint, *THX 1138* is a remarkable and unique movie, and the DVD will present the experience with all of the nuance and complexity that George Lucas created."

A brief theatrical release of the film will precede the DVD release and will begin on September 10 in 20 cities including Ann Arbor, Mich.; Austin, Texas; Boston; Chicago; Los Angeles; Minneapolis; New York; Philadelphia; San Francisco; Seattle; Portland; and others. More *THX 1138* information and a downloadable trailer can be found at thx1138movie.com.

Battling Cancer Through Video Games

LucasArts' Eric Johnston Helps Ben Duskin Battle Cancer in Unique, Free Computer Game

Thanks to LucasArts' Eric Johnston and the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation, kids can "battle" cancer with a free computer game, the "wish" of nine-year-old leukemia patient Ben Duskin of Greenbrae. The game was unveiled in early May to media acclaim.

Ben is in remission from leukemia. Throughout his course of treatment, Ben played computer games and began to think about the need to have something positive to help other kids battle their illnesses. Ben's wish was to design a video game that would be helpful for kids like him who have cancer by providing a way to fight back and relieve some of the pain and stress involved with treatment.

So the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation sought out game companies to find a champion to make Ben's wish come true.

"The initial response was overwhelmingly pessimistic," said Patricia Wilson, Executive Director. "People told us this venture was nearly impossible without taking several years and literally millions of dollars."

A hero stepped forward: Eric Johnston and his employer, LucasArts, fully supported his efforts. Not only did Eric want to make Ben's wish a reality, he planned to involve Ben in every step of the process. For months, Ben and Eric met on a regular basis to make the game just as Ben envisioned it.

Wilson added, "Eric and Ben achieved the impossible! Ben's wish is inspiring because it was selfless and Ben is a

philanthropist. Finding an angel like Eric Johnston was a miracle, and having the support of University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and his medical team was invaluable." Ben's own physician, Dr. Seymour Zoger of UCSF Children's Hospital, served as a medical advisor for the game. UCSF Children's Hospital will serve as the first medical facility to install the game for its pediatric patients. "The science for Ben's game came largely from what Ben learned himself in the course of treatment" said Dr. Zoger.

In addition to Eric's effort, several other Lucas employees put in some hard time as well. Chris Miles drew the "Ben" character, which is rapidly becoming a well-known icon of goodwill. Ellen Meijers created the sounds, which included spending time with Ben in the recording studio. Mark Barbolak stepped in to expertly handle legal issues, and Anne Marie Stein helped get Make-A-Wish hooked up with the gaming press. Lucasfilm Marketing's Victoria van Ysseldyk was involved from the very beginning and gave Ben a tour of Skywalker Ranch that could have been a whole wish of its own!

"Ben's Game" is free for anyone to play, and easily downloadable from the Internet at www.makewish.org/ben. The object of the game is to destroy all mutated cells and to collect the seven shields, which provide protection from common side effects of chemotherapy.

—Brett Rector

"Eric and Ben achieved the impossible!"





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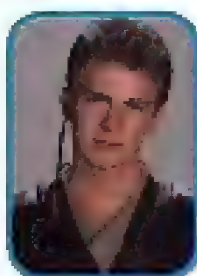


AUGUST 18-21, 2005

Star News

HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN

(Anakin Skywalker) was recently given the Best Actor award at the Canary Islands Film Festival in Spain. He was honored in March for his work in the film *Shattered Glass* and was awarded jointly with his costar in the film, Peter Saarsgard. The rumor mill strikes back: according to moviehole.net, Christensen may be up for a role in *Possession*, a new supernatural thriller directed by Stuart Baird (*Star Trek: Nemesis*). Also rumored to star in this film is Kim Basinger (*Batman*, *L.A. Confidential*).



SAMUEL L. JACKSON

(Mace Windu) is teaming up with comic genius Eugene Levy (*Waiting For Guffman*, *Splash!*) in *The Man*. In the film, Levy plays a clueless traveling salesman who unwittingly gets caught up in the middle of a sting operation set up by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. The film is being directed by Les Mayfield (*Encino Man*, *Blue Streak*, *Flubber*) and has a 2005 release date.



CARRIE FISHER

(Princess Leia) recently lent her Beverly Hills mansion to Selma Blair (*Hellboy*, *Cruel Intentions*) so Blair could tie the knot with rocker Ahmet Zappa. Blair and Zappa were to be wed at the Ritz-Carlton in Marina Del Rey but switched locations at the last minute. The guest list was small at the traditional Jewish ceremony, and Zappa's brother Dweezil and sister Moon Unit were in attendance.



Fisher also was scheduled to go head-to-head with British *Star Wars* geeks, according to Channel 4's website. The casting call asked for *Star Wars* trivia enthusiasts with costumes to match who were willing to go against Fisher in a test of *Star Wars* knowledge. Fisher has the

Force with her, so the outcome should be close, but we'll just have to wait and see.

AYESHA DHARKER

(Queen Jamillia) is all over the place these days. She's starring as Dr. Stukeley in the 2004 film *Colour Me Kubrick* with John Malkovich (*Being John Malkovich*), Angus Barnett (*Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*), and Marisa Berenson (*Barry Lyndon*). The film tells the true story of a man who posed as director Stanley Kubrick during the production of *Eyes Wide Shut* (Kubrick's last film) despite the fact that he had no directing experience and looked absolutely nothing like Kubrick. Brian W. Cook, assistant director on many of Kubrick's films, makes his directing debut with *Colour Me Kubrick*.

Hooray for Bollywood! Dharker is also starring in the new Andrew Lloyd Weber Broadway spectacular *Bombay Dreams*. The play, which is the story of a handsome young slum-dweller and his dreams of becoming a Bollywood star, made its official Broadway debut on April 29, 2004, under the direction of Steven Pimlott. Dharker plays the character Rani. The play features music by A.R. Rahman, lyrics by Don Black, and a book by Meera Syal and Thomas Meehan, and is based on an idea by Shekar Kapur and Andrew Lloyd Weber. The musical's world premiere was at the Apollo Victoria Theatre in London in June 2002.

ANTHONY PHELAN

(Lama Su) is starring in the Australian film *Dark Love Story* with Belinda McClory, Arron Pedersen, and Chris Baz. The film was written by Jon Hewitt and Belinda McClory, and is directed by Hewitt.

RENA OWEN

(Taun We) has a role in the fourth installment of *The Crow* series, *The Crow: Wicked Prayer*. In this story, Luc Crash, the leader of a Satanic biker gang, murders a young man named Jimmy Cuervo (Edward Furlong) and his girlfriend Lily (Emmanuelle Chriqui) in a ritual intended to make Crash an immortal demon. Cuervo busts a move from beyond the grave and, with the power of the Crow, avenges his girlfriend's death. The film also stars Dennis Hopper (*Blue Velvet*) and Tara Reid (*American Pie*).

Owen also stars in *Pearl Is Ma 'on maf*, or *The Land Has Eyes*, a 2004 film

directed by Vilsoni Hereniko. *Eyes* is a drama about a young South Pacific islander who redeems her family's name by exposing the secrets of one of her island's most powerful people. The island's mythical "Warrior Woman," played by Owen, inspires and haunts the young islander.

EWAN MCGREGOR



(Obi-Wan Kenobi) has been asked by Kelly Jones, the Stereophonics frontman-turned-screenwriter, to star in his first feature film, *The Memoirs of Charlie Tucker*. It's based

on British hangman Syd Derrley's 1989 autobiography, *The Hangman's Tale: Memoirs of a Public Executioner*, to which Kelly purchased the rights.

The story revolves around Derrley's work as a hangman in the 1940s and 1950s, during which time he executed 25 people in the U.K. Derrley, who died in 1994 at the age of 73, was fascinated by crime and decided to become a hangman by the time he was 11 years old.

McGregor, who is friends with Jones, was given the script to peruse after the Stereophonics' set at a recent Teenage Cancer Trust charity show and said he would give it a "serious look."

JEREMY BULLOCH



(Boba Fett) tells it like it is in his new autobiography, aptly titled *Flying Solo: Tales of a Bounty Hunter*. According to his website, jeremybulloch.com, "the book contains

events from his early work as a child actor leading up to his latest project. His career is interwoven with tales from the many conventions he has attended as 'Boba Fett.' The book also has many interesting photographs from Jeremy's personal life and professional career." Also according to the website, the book is limited to 2,000 signed, boxed copies, so if you want one, run, don't walk, to his website to snatch it up!

—Benjamin Harper



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Prequel Update For Episode III

By Jane Irens Kelly



special screening of the second cut of *Star Wars: Episode III*. In preparation,

When *Star Wars Insider* met with Producer Rick McCallum in mid June, the post-production team at Skywalker Ranch was readying for a

McCallum—along with editors Roger Barton and Ben Burtt—were helping Director George Lucas to add a few final touches to the film, which was going to be shared with select individuals Lucas had invited.

Just as we were about to sit down with McCallum for our update, he received a call from Lucas and had to go assist the team with this “tweaking” effort. About an hour later, he was finally able to take



a short break from his work and meet with us on the front porch outside of his office.

“We are now on our second cut of the film and things are looking really good,” said McCallum, who was clearly very upbeat about how work had been progressing on *Episode III*. “Very soon, we’re going to see even more shots coming from Industrial Light & Magic, and our ‘dailies’ sessions will be much longer. We still don’t have our team at ILM completely assembled yet, but we’re getting there. I can tell you, though, that Roger Guyett has joined on as visual-effects supervisor.”

Guyett—who is working closely with ILM visual-effects supervisor John Knoll and animation director Rob Coleman—most recently served as visual effects supervisor for *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. His other film credits include *Timeline*, *Tears of the Sun* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*.

McCallum’s news that the second cut of *Episode III* had been completed was significant because when we last spoke to him in April—on the day he was leaving for Sydney, Australia, to set up the “Wookiee shoot”—the postproduction team was only nearing completion of the first assembly of the film. However, much has been accomplished since that time—including the Wookiee shoot, which took place in mid May after more than six months of building suits to fit the basketball players tapped to play the very tall inhabitants of the Wookiee home world, *Kashyyyk*.

“The Wookiee shoot was a fabulous experience,” said McCallum. “We did the whole thing in two days. The actors were in fantastic shape—mentally and physically, they were ready for the shoot, and everything went really well.”

McCallum said some planned pickup shooting with Temuera Morrison was also successfully completed in Australia. Morrison played Jango Fett in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*—the vicious bounty hunter who was not only



(1) Director George Lucas looks bemused as actor Bruce Spence prepares to film a scene as Tiki Medon, a planetary leader.—Photo by Ralph Nelson Jr.



(2-3) Actor Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker) stands in the hallway of a familiar-looking ship, the Alderaan Diplomatic Cruiser to be seen in Episode III, as if to get a feel and sense of place for where his alter-ego will stride many years later. Darth Vader storms aboard what has become the Rebel Blockade Runner, or Tantive IV, in *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*. The circle draws closer to completion. — Photo by Keith Hamshire

the original genetic source for the clone trooper army but also the father of the infamous Boba Fett.

According to McCallum, the next round of shooting for Episode III will take place in late August and early September in London (and *Star Wars Insider* and *starwars.com* Hyperspace will be there, too!). "We don't know exactly what we are going to do during that shoot—we are still discussing that," he said. "But we have asked all of the major actors to join us there, including Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi), Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker), and Natalie Portman (Padmé Amidala)."

McCallum said that background plate shooting for Episode III—which is being

handled by famed cinematographer and director Ron Fricke—is also progressing "very well." He said the first group of aerial shots was taken in and around Phuket, Thailand, in May, and that the next shoot—to take place in China—was scheduled for late June.

Before the end of summer, according to McCallum, Fricke and his team will wrap up their work in Switzerland, shooting background plates for the idyllic planet of Alderaan—the Organa family's home world—before it was destroyed by the Death Star in *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*.

Also making an appearance in *Star Wars: Episode III* is the Alderaan Diplomatic Cruiser. This vessel will no doubt



The Official Star Wars Fan Club keeps up with postproduction work on *Star Wars: Episode III* daily through the "eye" of the *starwars.com* webcam. (The webcam will be there later this summer on the set of another Wookiee shoot. Don't miss it!) And for even more of the latest news, check out regular features on *starwars.com* Hyperspace such as "Making Episode III Webdocs" and the "Episode III Set Diary!"



look familiar to *Star Wars* fans: In Episode IV, this ship serves as the Rebel Blockade Runner—or *Tantive IV*—which is host to all the action that takes place in the opening sequence of that first *Star Wars* film.

"The *Tantive IV* had a few design considerations," said Episode III concept design supervisor, Ryan Church. "Clearly, it's the same ship we see in Episode IV, but in this film, we wanted to show how it appeared when it was newer, cleaner, and sleeker."

He added, "The ship also needed to look 'at home' on the planet of Alderaan. Alderaan architecture is among the most advanced and distinctive of any *Star Wars* planet—gleaming and

(4-5) Since the events of *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*, the Jedi starfighters have undergone considerable changes along with the change of the Jedi mission from keepers of the peace to warriors in a hot war. But to move audiences, the ships will have taken on an ominous look with a main viewport window and tent wings that bring to mind the look of Darth Vader's TIE Advanced fighter from *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*. Anakin's starfighter still has the reassuring presence of R2-D2, while Obi-Wan's sports a new R4 model. In look and tone, Episode III will draw closer to the events of the original trilogy.





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white. I really wanted the ship to fit right in when it arrives there. Bail Organa uses this ship often in Episode III, and several modifications made the design more suitable for use in the atmosphere—the shape is cleaner and more aerodynamic, and it now has landing gear and entry hatches.”

Church also designed the Jedi starfighter for Episode III (see photo p. 28)—a ship that is the precursor to the Twin Ion Engine (TIE) fighter used by the

Imperial Navy and appearing in mass numbers in the original *Star Wars* trilogy.

“I designed the Jedi starfighter and most of the vehicles in Episode III, and a lot of thought went into the design direction to get things to ‘line up’ where they needed to and then to contrast with the designs in the other movies where appropriate,” explained Church. “For the Jedi starfighter, George Lucas said he wanted to see something between the Jedi fighter seen in Episode II and the

(6) Padmé Amidala (Natalie Portman) and Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) share a tender kiss in the Senator’s apartment on Coruscant, but then war is about to come crashing down on them.—Photo by Merrick Morton.

(7) Oh, what stories that dumpster could tell! But to stage-hand Eric Polusky, the demolition of sets from Episode III is all in a day’s work—clearing the way for the building of the next set.—Photo by Paul Tiller.

(8) Chancellor Palpatine’s aide, Mas Amedda (David Bowens) leads a contingent of the chancellor’s guards in front of Palpatine’s transporter.—Photo by Merrick Morton.



TIE fighter that appears in the original trilogy, but with foldable wings."

He continued, "The view out the front is classic TIE fighter. I added the long guns directly in front of the cockpit along with arrow-shaped, split 'double delta' wings to emphasize that this ship appears during a time of galactic war and to give the pilot a great view of his target."

Church also said that Anakin's Jedi starfighter in Episode III looks a bit different from the "off-the-shelf" fighter Obi-Wan Kenobi flies in the film—a special touch designed to provide a connection back to the first Prequel movie. He explained, "Anakin's ship wears a customized paint job of yellow and unpainted metal, which saves weight and harkens back to his 'first' combat experience with a Naboo fighter in Episode I."

Anakin's and Obi-Wan's Jedi starfighters are featured in the opening sequence of *Star Wars: Episode III*—then we'll be able to see if Anakin's customized paint job really does help him to fly faster than his Master!



(9–10) A kick to the gut and a flying leap: These guys aren't just playing around. Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker) and Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi) go through just a small part of their major lightsaber duel in Episode III as Nick Gillard, stunt coordinator, looks on. —Photos by Ralph Nelson Jr.

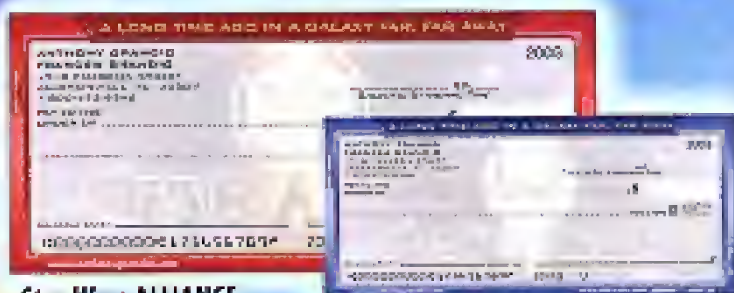
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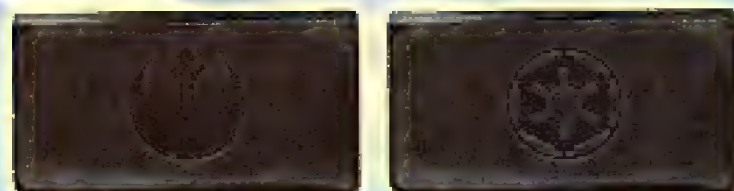
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(11) This is some rescue! As this shot begins, an imprisoned Chancellor Palpatine (Ian McEwan) looks to two strapping Jedi, Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) and Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) to free him from his shackles. But first, they have to take care of some business. —Photo by Ralph Nelson Jr.

(12) A herd of Wookiees? A flock? A coven? A work? You figure it out, but here is as ferocious a group of warrior Wookiees from Kashyyyk as you're ever likely to come across. Under all that fur, they are Axel Dench, Michael Kingma, David Stiff, Steven Foy, James Rowland, Julian Khazrouh, and Robert Cope. —Photo by Keith Hamshere.



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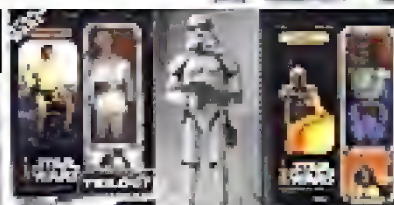


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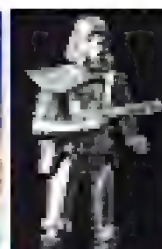


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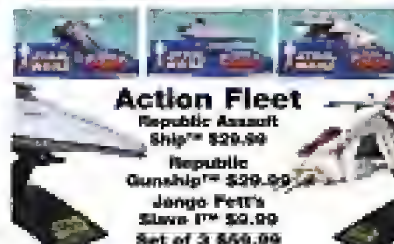
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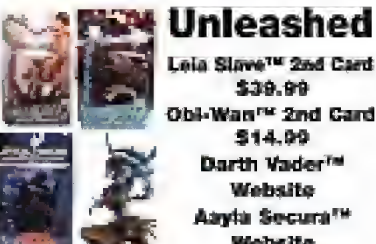
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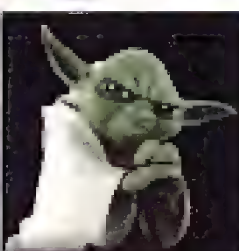
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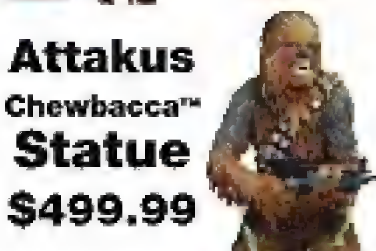


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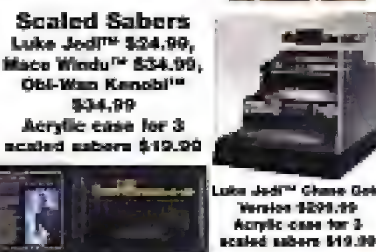


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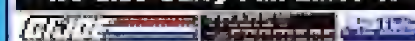
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(13) Bail Organa (Jimmy Smits), Yoda, and Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) discuss strategy in the conference room of the Alderaan Diplomatic Cruiser in Episode III.—Digital work by ILM.

(14) Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker) and Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi) get ready for a shot in the Padmé apartment set with camera clapper loader Simon Williams.—Photo by Menick Morton.

A close-up of Darth Vader's head and chest, wearing his iconic black helmet and armor. He is pointing his right index finger towards the right side of the frame. The background is a dark, textured red.

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**B****BEST OF HYPERSPACE**
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An Expanded Role: Aayla Secura

On May 7, Amy Allen, better known to fans as Jedi Aayla Secura, was called in to record her pieces of the movie puzzle that will appear in Episode III.

Working directly with Director George Lucas and Visual Effects Supervisor John Knoll, Amy was also under the watchful eye of the Hyperspace webcam and set chronicler Pablo Hidalgo.

Amy Allen is again covered with blue makeup to film greenscreen footage of Aayla in a single day of shooting, which started at nine in the morning and went until four in the afternoon. In comparison, the principal photography that occurred last summer seems more freeform than what's captured this day. The shots of Aayla are much more structured, much more designed to mimic the animatics, right down to re-creating camera moves and timing.



Danny Wagner of ILM's Model Shop has been tasked to paint Amy Allen. Costume Archivist Gillian Libbert dresses her as she did for Episode II. Danny's hands are covered in blue from the

constant touch-ups he must perform on Amy. After a morning filled of painting, Gillian performs an unsettling experiment: She nudges a Q-tip into her own nostril and pulls out a cotton swab covered in blue, which gets everywhere. To ensure I didn't feel left out, Gillian good-naturedly grabs one of Danny's brushes and paints a blue spot on my arm. Unfortunately, paint stains aren't exactly a collectable.

In Episode II, Amy Allen's role merely involved walking through the Jedi Temple and participating in a few action segments on Geonosis. In Episode III, she finally has dialogue, a single line (cut down from two in the script) as she checks in with the Jedi Council. The original line written for her, "You asked for my report, Master Windu?" has been changed to, "I'm sorry I'm late, Master Windu. Would you like my report?"

"Look to your left," says George, using the animatics frame to reference her surroundings. "Now look to Mace. Look at the table. Now look to Commander Cody. Now fold your arms." The shot is actually very short, but gathering all these little actions gives the editorial department leeway in choosing what footage of Aayla to make into a hologram.

For Episode III, Aayla won't just be an extra-blue hologram. We'll see her on a very alien world leading her clone troopers against the Separatists. Aayla doesn't speak any dialog during these scenes, so they're shot MOS (without sound).

In the shot, Aayla is stationed on one of the most bizarre, exotic worlds to be witnessed in a *Star Wars* film. "The planets

always tend to be rooted in some sort of environment found on Earth, like a snow planet, a desert planet, a sequoia redwood planet. This, though, is something totally different," says Visual Effects Supervisor John Knoll.



"Look extremely concerned," directs George. "Not nervous but mean." Aayla carries her lightsaber by her side, and I get the job of identifying the activation plate on the prop and giving Amy an idea of how she might want to hold the Jedi weapon. In spite of the crew's grumbling stomachs, the shoot continues through noon. Finally, everyone gets a break. Well, almost. "It's lunchtime," proclaims George, "but not for Twi'leks."



Go to starwars.com
for more Hyperspace.



Chat Excerpt: Amy Allen, Jedi, Role Model

Everyone's favorite blue-skinned Jedi answers fan's questions about Episode III, her grandmother, and being immortalized in plastic.

tintinytony: *How proud are you to represent a strong female character in a Star Wars galaxy dominated by men?*

Amy Allen: Extremely proud and lucky because women really love this character. I think I get a fair amount of feedback from both male and female fans, but I definitely get positive feedback from young girls and women.

Mainland05: *Have the tentacles (on your costume) ever fallen off?*

AA: They never fall off. My hair is put up in a skullcap, and they're glued onto the skullcap.

1 : 42 : 07: *Is it true that your grandmother was in *Gone with the Wind*? Was she an inspiration?*

AA: Yes, she is. Her name is Amy, too, but at the time, she had a stage name. I find it very fitting since *Gone with the Wind* and *Star Wars* are two of the most popular and successful films of all time, and we each have an involvement with one of them.

KuatDrYds: *How do you feel about being immortalized in the new *Unleashed* series? Do you own an action figure of your character?*

AA: Yes, I own an action figure. The *Unleashed* figure turned out amazing! It looks fantastic! I cannot wait to get my hands on one of those!

1 : 42 : 07: *Have you met Jan Duursema, the artist who created Aayla?*

AA: Yes, and we're close friends. One of my favorite pieces that she's illustrated is the Aayla vs. Aunra fight, which was in *Star Wars: Jedi—Aayla*. Incidentally, the story is being reprinted in *The Clone Wars Volume 4: Light & Dark* trade paperback this summer.



Chat Excerpt: Mark Hamill, Actor, Director, Star Wars Icon

Continuing the series of popular online chats with Star Wars celebrities, Hyperspace welcomed Mark Hamill, the actor behind Luke Skywalker, to the message board forums on February 10, 2004. Members asked questions about Mark's experience while filming the Star Wars trilogy.

Obi-Shark: *Is it true that the climatic words spoken on set were not "I am your father" but something else? If so, what did (David) Prowse say?*

Mark Hamill: "Obi-Wan killed your father!" It was misinformation to throw off the secret leaking out, which it did. Within 10 days, it was in one of the British tabloids, "Guinness Head Baddie in SW 2." I was so delighted to have misinformation leak out. It was impossible to keep a secret, which is a shame because it was such a part of the experience.

Jedindacity: *Was it tricky having Vader swipe at your hand and have it go flying off without hitting your real hand? How many takes did you have to do?*

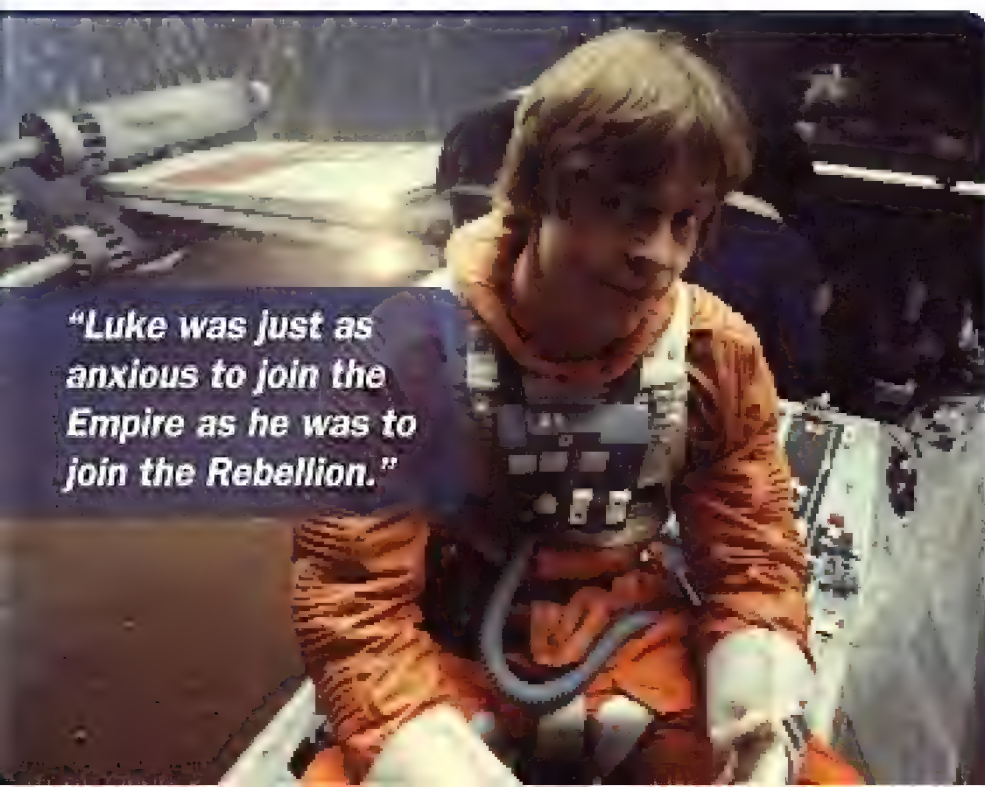
MH: Well, they molded my hand holding the lightsaber, which was tricked up on a spring-loaded trigger, and my sleeve was made longer to cover my real hand. By positioning it creatively, I could "shoot off" my hand. It took several takes so that it didn't look comical. There were also fans going, so it was really loud while we were filming.

Sompeetalay: *What's your favorite deleted scene from the trilogy?*

MH: My original entrance. I'm the only character who doesn't have it shown in the film. Originally, Luke is working out in the field, and he rushes to the teen club to tell his friends he's witnessed a battle in space. The reason I think the scene is important is that you don't realize Luke is not a popular figure among his peers. They sort of made fun of him. Additionally, I think what was important storywise is that he didn't have a political affiliation. Luke was just as anxious to join the Empire as he was to join the Rebellion.

1 : 42 : 07: *Did Sir Alec Guinness really slap you in a friendly way for addressing him as "Sir"?*

MH: Yes! He did tap-tap-slap! He then said, "I want to be known by my name, not my accolades." So I said, "Do you want me to call you Big Al?" And he loved that! He loved irreverence.



"Luke was just as anxious to join the Empire as he was to join the Rebellion."

Jaguar: Were the lightsabers hard to fight with? They look pretty heavy in the original trilogy.

MH: George made a stylistic choice during the first trilogy and changed his mind when he began the second. For Episodes IV through VI, we had to re-choreograph a lot of the fight scenes so that we kept the lightsaber in two hands. George said, "It's heavy, really heavy, like in *Excalibur*," which limited what we could do onscreen, despite Peter Diamond, Bob Anderson, and I arguing that we had it all worked out. When we showed what we had done, George still said we had to change it. We were a bit jealous when we saw what the new crew could do with a lightsaber in the Prequels.

cbwatts1138: Did you get to keep anything, such as a prop, from the *Star Wars* films?

MH: I did. I asked if I could keep certain things from the first one. I kept my boots and the stormtrooper helmet I wore when I rescued the Princess. I think I kept my lightsaber from *Empire*, and they made a miniature Luke costume for Nathan, who was just a toddler then. Usually, I tried to keep one prop, even something small like a shirt or a pair of glasses, from each project. I always ask, I don't just run off with them.

Getting the stormtrooper helmet through customs was interesting. They're not as well constructed, incidentally, as the commercial-made props because they were only meant to last six months. And I don't keep anything at my house, as a heads up to all potential burglars.

buggyvirus1: How did you like talking to a puppet?

MH: I'm proud of the fact that most of the reviewers never mentioned Yoda was a puppet. He was just so real to me, even when reading the script. I remember thinking I couldn't wait to do scenes with him because Yoda was so deep spiritually yet presented in such an unusual package.

Frank Oz was very complimentary in telling me that if I didn't believe I was talking to a living entity no one would believe it. I think he may have overstated that fact. Keep in mind that whenever Yoda's not in the shot, I'm talking to a piece of adhesive tape on a stick. When not in use, they'd rush the puppet over to Stuart Freeborne's lab to work on it.

Sidious: Dark Lord: Did you do your own stunts? If so, which ones were the most difficult?

MH: I did all of them except the one that the insurance company wouldn't let me do, which was going through the glass in *Empire*. The stunt people said I could (perform the stunt)—it was candy glass after all—and I wanted to.

I remember the swordfight in *Empire* being the most grueling thing. It took weeks to shoot, and no matter how much choreography you do, you end up being scraped and bumped and cut. I remember my wife, Marilou, taking pictures of my legs the night after a shoot. They looked like a relief map of Venezuela.

The things that scared me the most, however, were the firearms: Even with blanks, those things could be dangerous.



Photo-receptor

Rare and never-before-seen photos from the depths of the Lucas-film archives.

FATHER VS. SON (1)

In the steam-shrouded darkness of the carbon-freezing chamber, Darth Vader (David Prowse) confronts Luke Skywalker

(Mark Hamill). This rare still from the making of *Empire* shows the lightsaber prop before ILM adds its scintillating glow.

DARK LORD RISING (2)

In an uncommon publicity still for *The Empire Strikes Back*, the evil Darth Vader stands inside a dark, smoky environment.

A STRANGE CONNECTION (3)

Both Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) feel an undeniably strong connection, but what it truly means, neither can yet say.

DO NOT DISTURB (4)

This rare photo taken during the filming of Darth Vader's meditation chamber has Producer Gary Kurtz examining the man behind the mask.

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN (5)

Has Leia finally taken Han's advice and let her hair down? Carrie Fisher clownes around on set with a set of false braids and a Rebel officer's uniform.

SOCK IT TO ME (6)

Han Solo (Harrison Ford) lets his old buddy Lando (Billy Dee Williams) know just what he thinks of Collirissian's hospitality.

KISS ME, I'M ITHORIAN (7)

Cantina matron Ackmena (Bea Arthur) keeps an eye on an Ithorian patron in the "Star Wars Holiday Special."







Webdocs

Each month, *Hyperspace* members get a sneak preview of the "Making of Episode III" documentary series.

This Weapon Is Your Life

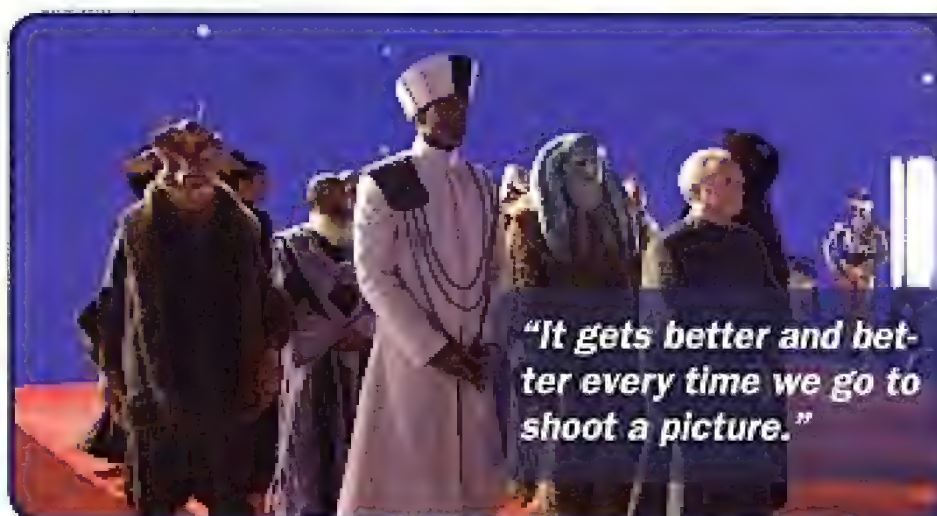
"Each culture has to have its own kind of weapon, which reflects the ideology of that particular culture and what they think about the way they do things. So, you end up with a very large variety of different kinds of weapons that exist in this fantasy world."

—George Lucas

"Drama is conflict. Conflict means violence of one kind or another. It's something that we live with and something that we should be familiar with since it's part of our daily life."

—George Lucas

"The gun has always signified modern society, modern weaponry, and the



"It gets better and better every time we go to shoot a picture."

we came up with these staves that are electric staves that the laser sword can't cut through. If you have a laser sword that can do anything and cut through anything, then you're sort of stuck. It's like Superman. Superman without Kryptonite wouldn't work."

—George Lucas

Video Village: No Need for the Drugstore

"As we go along on each picture, we are learning more and more how to shoot with digital technology. It gets better and better every time we go to shoot a picture."

—George Lucas

"The advances have been phenomenal. There is a monitor on the camera there that is static, a monitor on the crane, and all these monitors scattered all over the place. What he's seeing is what you will see when you see the movie."

—Christopher Lee, *Count Dooku*

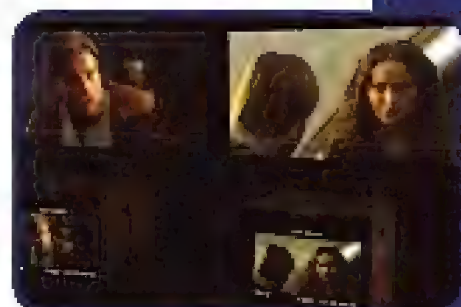
"It's fascinating to know that you're working with someone who's on the cutting edge, who's pushing that envelope."

—Jimmy Smits, *Bail Organa*

"In a way, working with film you're shooting blind, so you're less likely to take extreme chances. But working with HD, when you can see pretty much what you're going to get, you can be much more accurate, so you can take more chances. You can push it right to the edge before you drop off."

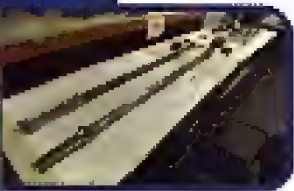
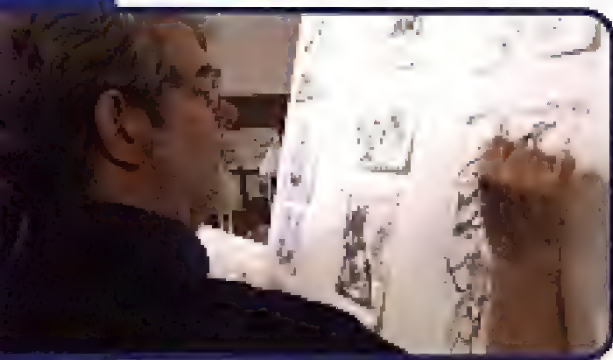
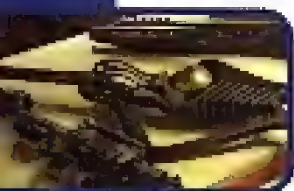
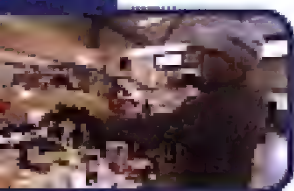
—David Tattersall, *director of photography*

"It's just much easier for the filmmaker to do his job. We can even cut the stuff



on the set if we want to. And we have, so that I can see if it's working or not. And then you can send it up to editorial, and they can cut it and do things literally the same day. You don't have to wait while it gets back from the drugstore."

—George Lucas



Epic Designs for an Expanding Universe

"Any time you have a large costume epic, you have a vast amount of work that has to be done."—George Lucas

"One example of the uniqueness of what Trish (Biggar) does in terms of taking a design and turning it into a very exotic reality is a dress called the peacock dress because it shifts colors when it's under different lighting conditions."—George Lucas

"She's always conscious of how the actor moves, how [the costumes] look in motion so that they look better than the

original design on paper. That is done by understanding the different kinds of materials, how they work under lighting conditions, and how to come up with really exotic materials and cloth."

—George Lucas

"To wear the costume to play the character I'm playing is wonderfully empowering. The colors, the textures...people keep coming up to me and saying, 'Is it rubber? Is it leather?' Well, it's neither rubber nor leather. I don't quite know what it is. It feels reptilian, which is exactly right."—Ian McDiarmid, *Supreme Chancellor Palpatine*

"It's very, very important for the actors to have something to hold on to, and that's one of the reasons why they respond to Trisha's work so well: It roots them and makes it solid for them."

—Rick McCallum, producer

"It was a huge contribution to my character. It's one of those things that just adds to things up here, too. I felt almost priestlike when it was on, and that's when I thought, I'm the administrator of this planet, but that role carries extra responsibilities. Especially when I put on this costume that has accumulated over eons. The significance of all the different pieces goes back and has evolved over many years."—Bruce Spence, *Tion Medon*

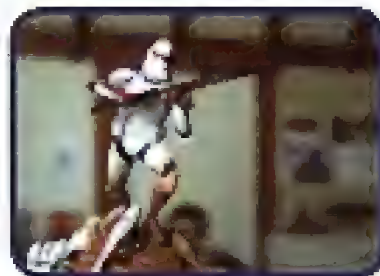
"Any time you have a large costume epic, you have a vast amount of work that has to be done."



Webcam

For the past few months, the Episode III webcam has been hanging out with the effects wizards at ILM and the animatics visionaries at Skywalker Ranch, and at pick-up shooting involving miniatures and actors alike. The webcam is already making its preparations for a summer tour, including Comic-Con 2004 and additional photography in London. Don't miss it!

Edited by Paul Ens; content by Pablo Hidalgo and Bonnie Burton.



Original Trilogy 101: Just for Kids!

Check out the Kids section of starwars.com (starwars.com/kids/) in mid August when the site launches its "Getting into the Original Trilogy" feature designed to give young fans a quick "history" lesson about the first three *Star Wars* films: *Star Wars: A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi*. Kids can access a synopsis of each film's story line and view "flipbooks" filled with images of characters, creatures, vehicles, and technology related to each movie.





On the eve of the classic trilogy's DVD release, *Star Wars Insider* revisits the 10 crucial moments that made the story a saga. Let the arguments commence.

By Dan Amrich

It's hard to have a discussion about the classic *Star Wars* trilogy with fans without an "I always loved the part when..." creeping into the conversation. For if you first fell in love with the *Star Wars* universe via the original three films, the images are indelible. The films have been reviewed, revered, spoofed, remastered, and enhanced, but they'll never be duplicated (you have pre-ordered your DVD set, due for release September 21, haven't you?). So in honor of the imminent release, when both old and new generations of fans will get to relive the saga for themselves with lush new digital transfers and sonic splendor, it's worth naming—and ranking!—those scenes and events that will play back forever in the minds and hearts of *Star Wars* fans everywhere. We believe these are the individual, emotional moments of the original trilogy that truly make it classic.



Log on to starwars.com **Hyperspace** to check out the scenes that almost made the cut, and let your own voice be heard.

It is a period of civil war.

The Crawl / Tantive IV Chase

Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope

It's hard to separate these two key moments because both were not only tremendously influential—fueling the imagination of an entire generation of directors, movie makers, and story tellers—but they both also set the stage for grandeur, enormous scope, and the saga to come.

Opening with the backstory sprawling into the vastness of space, the now famous "text crawl," combined with John Williams' booming, brassy score, makes the audience feel like they are in for a truly epic adventure. The text's scale is also presented in a way that lets you know something huge is happening, and that you're about to be thrown into the middle of it. To up the ante of an already dramatic opening, the next thing you see is the *Tantive IV*, a sizeable craft in its own right, being pursued and fired upon by Darth Vader's Star Destroyer, *Devastator*. It literally fills the entire frame. Talk about one-two punches!

Although more than 25 years have passed since Episode IV's release, it's important to recognize how stunning, timeless, and creative these opening scenes are. Not only do they give you a snapshot as to what *Star Wars: A New Hope* is all about—a small band of rebels battling against a tyrannical empire despite overwhelming odds—but also the message is conveyed without a single spoken word. It's pure movie magic.



*It is a period
of civil war.
Rebel spaceships
have been hidden
in the planet's
caves.*



STAR WARS

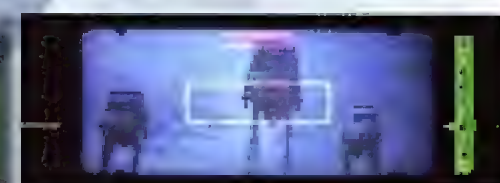


"We Have Spotted Imperial Walkers!"

Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back

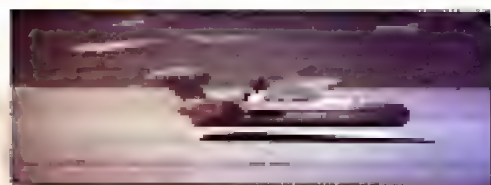
By the end of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, we'd seen stormtroopers, Star Destroyers, TIE fighters, and the Death Star (or rather, tiny little glowing chunks of it). But nothing prepared audiences for the Empire's ultimate land assault vehicle, the All Terrain Armored Transport, or AT-AT. Appearing first as mere specks on the foggy horizon of the north ridge, a quick scan using electrobinoculars revealed the true size of the threat. These enormous mechanical juggernauts were like nothing previously seen in the *Star Wars* galaxy: no fancy engines, no hyperdrive—just hulking, heavily armored behemoths, capable of crushing and blasting anything in their path and striking mortal terror into the hearts of their enemies. AT-ATs defined the term "full-scale assault."

As with the *Tantive IV*'s attempted escape in *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the AT-ATs' debut in *The Empire Strikes Back* reinforced just what kind of resources were at the Empire's disposal and how swift its response could be to a Rebel threat. If the Imperial walkers didn't make you say, "What the heck are those?!" the first time you saw them, you're one of the few.





*...GS...
It might be our only chance of
stopping them.*



Luke Returns Home... For the Last Time

Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope

Luke spends the first 40 minutes of *Star Wars: A New Hope* waiting for his destiny to kick in. He's stuck on a moisture farm with his future on hold while he handles family responsibilities. When Obi-Wan Kenobi gives Luke's father's lightsaber to him, old Ben also offers Luke a chance to escape his frustratingly dull existence. Still, Luke resists. But shortly thereafter, upon speeding home from the Jawa massacre enacted by Imperial stormtroopers, Luke is greeted by a devastated homestead, yet another show of the Empire's brutality. To make matters even more horrifying, Luke also discovers the smoldering bodies of his Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru.

It's ironic that where their lives end, Luke's truly begins—the shock of seeing the charred corpses of his loved ones suddenly snaps things into sharp focus. This is not a joke. Luke and millions of innocents like him are in imminent danger. And it's in that moment that Luke embraces his destiny—there's nothing left to lose. His hero's quest is officially about to begin.



...and that would lead
them back...
Home!

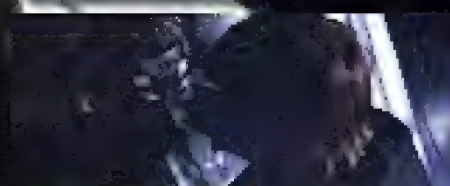
Darth Vader Unmasked

Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi

You can't deny that all through the trilogy, you kept asking yourself one question: What does Darth Vader really look like? *Return of the Jedi* is the movie that shows you, and not just a quick teaser like the back-of-the-head shot from *The Empire Strikes Back*. Originally, even George Lucas didn't quite know how Vader's countenance might appear. "I didn't have a very specific idea about what Vader might look like underneath the mask," he says in Laurent Bouzereau's *Star Wars: The Annotated Screenplays*. "Until [*Return of the Jedi*] I just knew that he was pretty messed up simply because he could barely breathe or speak."

After fighting Luke and ultimately his own master, a weakened, dying Vader requests that his helmet be removed. "Just for once, let me look on you with my own eyes." It's a tender moment instead of a gruesome one, a son rescuing his father; when the withered, gray flesh of Anakin Skywalker is revealed, he looks weak, frail, humble...all too human. He's more man than machine now. And it's this moment of ultimate redemption upon which the entire *Star Wars* saga is based.

*You were right
about me...
Tell your sister...
you were right.*







"What's in there?"

*"Only what you take
with you."*

Luke Faces Vader On Dagobah

Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back

Roughly an hour into the film, Luke is in serious physical training, flipping around the organic terrain of Dagobah with Yoda strapped to his back. He's gaining power, he's gaining insight, but not total clarity—he senses a disturbance in the Force. Yoda knows the deal, but he's clearly not telling; this is part of Luke's journey of self-discovery. As the audience, we are just as much in the dark as Luke is when he ventures into the cave.

What he finds—Darth Vader, emerging from the foliage—is as shocking and unexpected as anything else in the saga so far. Vader's appearance on a world that is supposed to be a Jedi sanctuary is inconceivable. We are left wondering, for the briefest of moments, how is this possible? Before an answer can be formulated, the audience is thrust back into the moment as a brash Luke ignites his lightsaber and engages Vader in a brief duel. The "battle" quickly ends, forcing a creepy and confusing resolution that only increases the sense of dread and destiny, if not bringing the confrontation to, um, a head. It almost goes without saying that Luke's horror at seeing his own face behind the mask is easily the best and most powerful foreshadowing of the entire classic trilogy.



Yoda Makes X-wing Take Flight

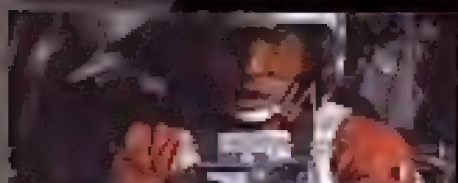
Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back


When Obi-Wan Kenobi speaks of the Force in *Star Wars: A New Hope*, it's largely in theory, or in small doses. Luke manages to deflect a few blasts from the training remote on the *Falcon*; Ben muddles a few stormtroopers' minds; two proton torpedoes find their crucial mark. It's enough to prove that there's something to all those hokey religions and ancient weapons, but none of them, really, compares to the blockbuster move Yoda pulls off on Dagobah.

After Luke is unable to raise his X-wing from the swamp and Yoda's pep talk leaves him frustrated instead of enlightened, Luke sighs, "You want the impossible." Yoda simply shows him what he cannot believe, levitating the X-wing with ease and focus, leaving Red Five, standing by, utterly amazed. For any moviegoers who were also waiting for a big event to "prove" the mystical power that binds the galaxy together, this scene was it. Maybe you couldn't see the Force, maybe you couldn't control the Force, but after Yoda's example, you couldn't deny the Force.



*There is no try.
There is no not try.*





*Great shot, kid,
that was one in
a million!*

Destruction of the First Death Star

Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope

Well, you know this was going to be in here somewhere. George Lucas may have had a much larger story arc planned in his head, but he took care to make *Star Wars: A New Hope* a self-contained, satisfying story, and the destruction of the Death Star is the film's clear climax. It's the culmination of all the earlier moments in the film: Vader's tyranny on behalf of the Empire; the destruction of Alderaan; Luke's loss of his family, his mentor, and his innocence. Several pilots die in the assault on the Death Star, and even veterans like Red Leader Garven Dries, who also perished, couldn't make the crucial shot. So why would a rookie X-wing jockey like Luke be able to hit the target against all odds and logic?

To put it simply, the farm-boy-turned pilot had the Force as his ally, something even fan favorite Jek Porkins could never claim. But from an audience's perspective, the destruction of the Death Star is uniquely satisfying—exactly what everyone was hoping to see at the end of their hero's journey.

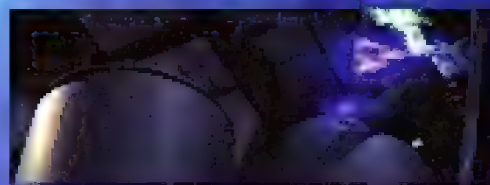
Darth Vader Overthrows The Emperor (Literally)

Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi

It's when things are at their worst that some heroes are at their best. Then again, most heroes aren't Darth Vader, who for the better part of three films embodied the definition of villain. However, seeing his son tortured by the Emperor's lightning bolts, writhing in pain on the floor, the Dark Lord of the Sith's own hero moment has come. As the Emperor's willing servant, Vader has brought about the situation before him, but he realizes that he also has the power to change it with decisive action. This is when he must decide between light and dark, between Anakin and Vader, between redemption and damnation.

It's not that audiences haven't seen Vader as a powerful physical presence before—he holds Captain Antilles up by the neck within the first 10 minutes of *Star Wars: A New Hope*—but more often he uses the Force to carry out his own brand of “discipline.” So if you'll pardon the pun, it's something of a shock to see Vader grab and hoist a still-sparking Emperor Palpatine over his head like a champion athlete and hurl him down one of the second Death Star's many near-bottomless chasms to certain doom. Yet in choosing the light side of the Force and sacrificing the Emperor, Darth Vader also sacrifices himself.

*So be it,
Jedi.*



"I love you."

"I know."



Han Solo's Deep Freeze

Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back

Bespin's carbon freezing chamber seethes with evil, crimson steam as a bound Han Solo is brought in to meet his fate. It's like a private circle of Hell, waiting to open up and swallow our hero whole. Solo's a man of action, as quick with his blaster as he is with his mouth, so it's entirely and perfectly within Han's character to answer Leia's heartfelt "I love you" with the sly, sincere reply "I know." The greatest romantic exchange of the film, if not the trilogy, is incredibly profound, and the feeling of loss shared between the characters onscreen and the audience is heightened even more when Han is engulfed in an explosion of steam and finally displayed to the world in his carbonite prison.

In films known as much for their special effects and action sequences as anything else, this is the one place in the classic trilogy where romance gets to take center stage. Maybe it's that shift in focus, from exploding TIE fighters to heart-wrenching melodrama, that lends this scene so much weight. Despite Leia's whopping kiss of Luke on Hoth, and regardless of the sarcastic flirtations throughout the asteroid chase, there will be no more discussion over who gets the girl—Han and Leia are officially a couple from this moment on. And what a tragic, classic moment it is.





"No—I Am Your Father."

Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back


The. Biggest. Moment. Ever. This was the mother of all plot twists—or rather, the father. Luke has been bested; not yet a Jedi, his brash nature leads to the lightsaber duel that ends *The Empire Strikes Back*, but the confrontation is premature as Luke's skills are still immature. Having established Darth Vader as the ultimate evil in the galaxy, as well as a swordsman able to take down Obi-Wan Kenobi, the outcome of the battle shouldn't really come as a surprise. But the resulting dialogue, with a one-handed Luke clinging to a simple outrigger miles above nothingness and Vader in the only position of power, is the ultimate surprise.

Vader's bold claim of parentage (not to mention his resulting suggestion that together, father and son could overthrow the Emperor and rule the galaxy) was so shocking, so unbelievable, that many fans felt it was a lie or a gambit—an ambiguity intentionally created by George Lucas as "an escape hatch for the kids psychologically, so they can deny it." Surely the third film would reveal that it was all a trick to manipulate Luke? Vader's a bad guy! Lying's what they do! Instead, fans had to accept the truth: George Lucas just delivered a sucker punch that would forever change the direction of the *Star Wars* saga, its ramifications shaping not only the final chapter in the classic trilogy, but also the three prequels yet to come.

*Search your
feelings...
you know
it to be true.*







Changing Seasons

***Part 2: People
Of the Guardian***



Go to [starwars.com Hyperspace](http://starwars.com/Hyperspace)
to read "Changing Seasons Part 1."

By Timothy Zahn
Illustration by Andrew Robinson

Synopsis: Changing Seasons Part 1: Guardian of the People

Obi-Wan Kenobi has ventured to the planet Dagob to discover that the rumors of the Separatists' occupation are true. After barely escaping one battle that left him injured and in the care of locals, Kenobi again engages battle droids, only to be assisted at the last moment by Anakin Skywalker and his survey team. The two Jedi now find themselves on a mission to deal with an even bigger Separatist threat....

With a final salute through the canopy of his scout ship cockpit, Task Force Commander Fivvic lifted off the ground, the rest of the survey team close behind. Standing outside the Swens family barn where he'd spent the past four days, Obi-Wan Kenobi watched the ships disappear into the Dagob sky, wondering if this might possibly not be the smartest decision he'd made this month. Beside him, Anakin Skywalker stirred. "It's not too late to call them back," he pointed out.

Obi-Wan took a deep breath. Smart or not, it was what they had to do. "Yes, it is," he said firmly.

"Good," Anakin turned to face east, holding a hand up to shield his eyes from the early morning sun. "So they're in there, huh?"

Obi-Wan turned, too. Cutting across the vast expanse of farmland in the near distance was a line of tall, gray cliffs. A kilometer or so south of where they stood, a raging white-water river boiled out of a narrow gorge in the cliff face, the turbulence subsiding as the water spread out into a wider riverbed and turned toward the north. "So it would seem," he told Anakin. "The trick's going to be getting in there with them."

"Flying in is definitely out," Anakin mused. "They'll be expecting that, and a gorge that narrow doesn't leave much maneuvering room. Could we rappel down from the top of the cliff?"

"That would be an awfully long rappel," Obi-Wan pointed out doubtfully, measuring the cliff face with his eyes. "At least half a kilometer. And we wouldn't know where to start—Kiran said the mountains run 10 kilometers back from the cliff face."

"Then there's only one approach left," Anakin said. "If we can't fly or rappel, we'll have to swim."

"I was afraid you were going to say that," Obi-Wan said. "Let's go see what Kiran says."



Kiran Swens's response was pretty much what Obi-Wan had expected. "You two," he declared, "must be insane."

"That goes without saying," Anakin agreed. "But is it possible?"

"Not a chance," Kiran said, gesturing them to the table. "Trissa, can you get us some mist?"

"Sure," his wife said, crossing over to the simmering urn. "You children, go work on your chores."

"Aw, Mom," 10-year-old Kit protested.

"Can't we stay and listen?"

"We won't interrupt," his younger sister Zizzy added. "We promise."

"Off, both of you," Trissa said firmly. "This is grownup talk. Maybe later you can spend some more time with our guests."

Silently, clearly under protest, the children left. "First problem's the current," Kiran said, turning back to the Jedi. "You'd need a high-speed dive boat to make any headway, only I doubt a dive boat would have enough room to submerge in that maze of boulders where the river comes out."

"What about going in from the upstream direction?" Obi-Wan asked.

Kiran shook his head. "The entrance to the gorge is even narrower than the exit. I don't know of any dive boat that would fit in there."

"How about a regular boat?" Anakin asked.

"They're bound to spot anything on the surface," Obi-Wan pointed out. "Could we climb our way in from the upstream end? Say, halfway up the cliffs where they might not have any sensors placed?"

"You could try rappelling," Trissa suggested as she brought a fresh pitcher of misti to the table.

"They'll be watching for intruders coming in from above," Obi-Wan told her.

"I didn't mean that kind of rappelling," Trissa said. "I meant the underwater type."

Obi-Wan blinked. "Excuse me?"

"It was something my friends and I used to do when we were younger," she explained. "You fasten a cable above the

entrance to the gorge, then hold on and slide along it, letting the river current carry you downstream."

Kiran looked at her, his mouth hanging slightly open. "Your mother told me you'd been a wild child," he said. "But that's just nuts."

"Remind me to tell you sometime about Anakin's career in Podracing," Obi-Wan said dryly. "Trissa, can this be done completely underwater, or is the river too shallow at that point?"

"We never submerged completely," Trissa said, frowning in concentration. "At least, not on purpose. But as long as we stayed in the middle of the channel, I don't remember the rocks being a problem. I think you could get far enough underwater to be hidden and still be safe. Of course, you'd need some kind of breather equipment."

"Those we've got," Obi-Wan told her. "What do you think, Anakin?"

The younger man shrugged. "If it was easy, everyone would do it," he said. "Let's go see how much cable we've got with us."



The river was a narrow torrent of foam and spray cutting through a groove in the mountains as it raced toward the taller line of cliffs ahead and the valley beyond them. "We usually started further downstream, right at the beginning of the cliffs," Trissa said, her voice barely audible over the noise. "I don't know any good places to attach your cables up here."

"We'll find something," Obi-Wan assured her, looking around. It would indeed have been simpler to start at the gorge itself, but the Separatists would have sensors planted there to watch for intruders. Here, a couple of turnings upstream, they could hopefully get far enough underwater to slip in unnoticed.

"How about that?" Anakin asked, pointing to a short but thick-trunked tree growing between two large boulders on the far side. Without waiting for an answer, he did a Jedi leap over the rolling water to land beside it. He gave the trunk a couple of experimental tugs, then turned and nodded.

Obi-Wan nodded back. "Looks like we're set," he told Kirian and Trissa. "Thanks for your help. And thank Pickers again from us for letting you borrow his landspeeder."

"Sure." Kirian looked down at the river. "Do you want us to wait for you someplace?"

"No, just go home," Obi-Wan said. "We'll let you know if and when we need a pick up."

"All right," Kirian said. "Good luck." Turning, he started picking his way through the boulders back toward where they'd left the landspeeder. Trissa lingered for one last look at Obi-Wan, then nodded silently and followed her husband.

Obi-Wan watched until they were out of sight. Then, stretching out to the Force, he leaped over the river to where Anakin had just finished fastening his line around the tree. "Trissa doesn't seem happy about this," the younger man commented.

"She was pretty angry with her husband for bringing me to her home after I got shot down," Obi-Wan explained as he pulled out some cord from his cable dispenser. "She was polite enough about it, but it was obvious. I think she's working through some guilt over that."

"Well, I sure wouldn't want to risk my family for a stranger," Anakin said darkly. "I mean...if I had a family."

Obi-Wan's throat tightened as he felt the ache in his Padawan's heart. It was 12 years after his mother's death, yet her absence was still as fresh as the day Anakin had lost her. Someday, he would have to get the young man to tell him the whole story of that incident.

"That water's not going to get any warmer," Anakin pointed out, and Obi-Wan could sense him pushing the pain away into the back of his mind.

"Right," Obi-Wan said, checking his line and then Anakin's. The tree they were using had broad purple leaves; pinching off a handful of them, he stuffed them into his tunic.

"What's that for?" Anakin asked.

"You'll see," Obi-Wan told him, pulling his Aquata A99 breather from its pouch with a twinge of painful memories of his own. The breather would always remind him of that mission to Naboo, and the loss of his Master Qui-Gon....

He shook the thoughts away. "Watch out for sensors," he said and set the breather between his teeth. Getting a grip on his cable dispenser, he waded into the river.

He'd made it only knee deep before a sudden surge in the flow knocked his feet out from under him. He toppled backward, but Anakin was ready and caught him in a steadying Force grip. Regaining his balance, he played out the cable and lowered himself the rest of the way.

Once, a long time ago, he'd been caught in the open during one of the sudden monsoon rainstorms of Matarri, where huge drops driven by strong down-draft winds came down with enough force to bruise the skin and occasionally even kill small animals. This was very much the same sensation, except that instead of lukewarm tropical rain, the water here was mind-numbingly cold. It pounded his head and shoulders, tearing at his hair and tunic, buffeting against him and trying to twist his head sideways as he moved deeper into the stream.

Half a meter below the surface, thankfully, most of the turbulence was gone. But the current was, if anything, even stronger. Instead of a rainstorm, he now felt as if he was being dragged through a lake by an angry acklay running at full speed. Bowing his head slightly to try to see past his feet, wincing as the shift in posture funneled a torrent of the icy water straight down the back of his neck, he started downstream.

Out of the corner of his eye, he saw something large ease past him. It was Anakin; but unlike Obi-Wan's more cautious feet-first approach, his Padawan had turned himself around and was heading face-first down the river, his cable dispenser held tightly against his chest, the line caught in a loose grip between his boots for stability. He looked at Obi-Wan as he passed, his face crinkling with a brief grin behind his breather, and continued on. Mentally shaking his head, hoping the other didn't brain himself against a rock, Obi-Wan followed.

They had cleared their second curve when he felt Anakin's warning flash into his mind. Stop!

He sent an acknowledgment and slowed to a cautious crawl. Anakin was waiting a short distance ahead, five meters back from a point where the sunlight stream-

ing through the foam abruptly faded away, marking the entrance to the gorge. There, fastened to a boulder at the dividing line between light and gloom, was the small black disk of a visual scanner. Apparently, the Separatists weren't taking chances on even such an unlikely back door as this.

Unfortunately for them, their security setup hadn't taken Jedi into account. Getting a one-handed grip on his cable, Obi-Wan dug out the tree leaves he'd collected earlier. He held them up in front of Anakin's eyes, caught the other's flash of understanding, and let them go.

The current caught the leaves, sending them skittering down the channel. Stretching out to the Force, Obi-Wan guided their paths, running them around and past the scanner. Then, just as the second-to-last leaf was passing, he caught it in a Force grip, holding it quivering in front of the sensor as if its stem had been caught by a crack in the rocks.

Anakin was gone in an instant, sliding down his cable at typically reckless speed. Obi-Wan was right behind him, keeping the leaf in front of the scanner until they were safely past, then releasing it to shoot past him and disappear. Slowing to a safer speed, watching for more sensors, the two Jedi continued on.

With no idea where along the 10-kilometer length the Separatists had their base, Obi-Wan had had some concerns that he and Anakin would run out of either air or cable before they reached it. As it turned out, though, there was no need for worry. They had gone only a couple of kilometers when the current suddenly subsided to a manageable level, and a moment later, he spotted a forest of large pillars rising from the boulders at the bottom of the river at a point where the dim light from overhead went completely black. Tapping Anakin's shoulder, Obi-Wan gestured, and together they worked their way over to one of the pillars to their left.

They floated to the surface and found themselves a couple of meters below the edge of a permacrete platform spanning the entire width of the gorge. The pillar was too wide to get their arms around, but the steady hammering of the river had gouged handhold-sized pits in its surface, and with only a little trouble, they were able to climb up to the platform.

Carefully, they eased their heads over the edge.

It was a Separatist research facility all right, exactly as Obi-Wan had expected. What he hadn't expected was that it would be this big. There were at least a dozen buildings perched on the permacrete slab, some of them the relatively compact size of research labs and power generators, others the larger droid storage and recharging facilities, and others were larger equipment storage or repair shops. One building near the center was definitely Neimoidian-style living quarters.

But it was a pair of extra-large buildings butting up against the opposite sides of the cavern that sent a shiver down his back, a shiver that had nothing to do with the cold water he'd been soaking in for the past hour. Each was three stories high with walls that were featureless except for wide doors at ground level and rows of small windows beneath the roof overhang.

Exactly the sort of buildings that might house major fabrication facilities.

"Whoa," Anakin murmured. "They've been busy, haven't they?"

"Indeed," Obi-Wan agreed grimly, returning his breather to its pouch.

"You see just past the buildings, how the gorge narrows again? Looks to me like this whole section of cavern is artificial, carved out to give themselves more room."

"Makes the whole soggy trip worthwhile," Anakin said. He pointed to the buildings that had caught Obi-Wan's attention. "I vote we start with those big ones along the sides. They're pressed pretty close to the cavern walls, so there shouldn't be anyone wandering around back there to bother us, and those windows look big enough to get through."

"Assuming the builders bothered with windows on the side facing the wall," Obi-Wan said doubtfully.

"They did," Anakin assured him. "Those windows are mostly for ventilation, and the builders will have wanted to take advantage of the airflow along the wall."

Obi-Wan shrugged, peering upward. High overhead, though still protected by the walls of the gorge, he could see the black spots of STAPs on patrol. Just as well he and Anakin hadn't tried coming down that way. "One way to find out," he said. "Nice and quiet, now."

They dropped back into the surging water and worked their way to the left through the forest of supports. When Obi-Wan judged they'd gone far enough, he carved a set of hand- and footholds in the rock with his lightsaber and climbed up beneath the platform. Alert for signs of danger, he carefully sliced a large hole through the permacrete, using the Force to lower the plug into the water. There were no Neimoidians or droids visible when he poked his head up, and a minute later, he and Anakin were standing in the narrow gap between the building and the cavern wall.

Anakin had been right: The windows they'd seen were indeed repeated on this side—and many were open for ventilation. Tucking his lightsaber into his belt, he made a Force-assisted jump up to one of the open windows, grabbing the edge with hooked fingertips. Pulling himself up, he peered inside.

He had expected to find a building filled to the ceiling with the heavy-duty fabrication machinery. To his surprise, the building was largely empty with most of its research equipment pushed back around the edges with only a meter of ventilation space between the walls and the various consoles. A dozen Neimoidians were gathered around a large mat lying in the center of the floor, while a number of worker droids worked at various assembly tables that had been set up just inside the ring of consoles. A maze of crane tracks crisscrossed the ceiling, and a service catwalk ran around the entire interior beneath the line of windows. After pulling himself through the window, Obi-Wan dropped flat onto the catwalk and eased his way to the edge.

He was studying the layout below when Anakin crawled in to join him. "I give up," the other murmured. "What is this place?"

"No idea," Obi-Wan said. "The equipment around the edges makes it look like a research lab. But why they're not using the middle of the floor, I don't know."

"Maybe whatever they've been working on is out of the building right now?" Anakin suggested. "That big mat could be what it was resting on."

"Then why does everyone seem so interested in the mat itself?" Obi-Wan countered.

"Good point," Anakin said. "Want me to go ask them?"

"Let's try to be a bit more subtle than that, shall we?" Obi-Wan said as he studied the room below. "Maybe start by pulling the records off that R-408 computer down there. I wish we had a droid with us."

"Maybe we do," Anakin said, pointing toward the right. "Isn't that the R3 from your scout ship?"

Obi-Wan blinked in surprise. It was Arthree, all right, strapped to a tall equipment rack and hooked up to a decryption analyzer. "I should have guessed they'd bring it here from the wreckage," he said, studying the room's layout more closely. At the moment, the droid was out of the immediate line of sight of the Neimoidians gathered in the center. If he could get down from the catwalk without being seen and get behind the analyzer, he should be able to free the droid without raising the alarm. Once that was accomplished, they could move through the ventilation corridor behind the consoles and get to the R-408. "Wait here," he told Anakin, starting to gather his feet under him.

"No, I'll go," Anakin said. Before Obi-Wan could object, he grabbed the edge of the catwalk, flipped over the side, and dropped silently to the floor below. Ducking behind the nearest cabinet, he hunkered down and headed toward Arthree.

Obi-Wan shifted his attention back to the Neimoidians, still working on the mats. But even as he watched, one of them straightened up and started walking with exaggerated casualness toward one of the nearby consoles. Apparently, Anakin's drop to the floor hadn't been as secretive as they'd hoped.

He grimaced, but there was nothing for it. Pulling out his cable dispenser, he extruded a few meters and attached a grappling hook to the end, then threw the hook to catch on one of the ceiling cranes. Pulling out his lightsaber, he swung down toward the Neimoidians below.

The one who'd been heading toward the line of consoles gave a throaty yelp and broke into a run. Still in midair, Obi-Wan locked his lightsaber on and hurled it ahead of the alien. It sliced through the three closest racks, sending up a spray of sparks and bringing the Neimoidian to a sudden panic halt. "Everyone stay where you are," Obi-Wan ordered as he hit the floor, stretching out with the Force to call his lightsaber back to his hand.

The command was superfluous. Aside from turning to face him, the rest of the Neimoidians were still right where they'd been standing when he'd started down from the catwalk, clustered nervously around the far end of the mat.

Which, in Obi-Wan's experience, wasn't like Neimoidians at all. They should have been running like frightened neeks, scattering toward exits, alarm buttons, or likely places to hide. Lightsaber ready, senses alert for trouble, he started toward them. He reached the edge of the mat, noting an odd sense of anticipation in the air, and started to take another step.

And without warning, the mat's upper surface suddenly split open along its diagonals and 100 small objects burst out.

He wrenched his foot back from its intended landing spot, shoving hard off the floor with his other foot to leap half a meter backward as a group of flying disks spun around in formation and shot through the air straight at him. His lightsaber slashed, slicing across them—with a multiple concussion, they exploded into a blistering rain of shrapnel.

His Jedi reflexes were all that saved him, sending him ducking away so that the flying bits of metal perforated a fiery path across his shoulder and back instead of his face and throat. Suppressing the pain, he twisted back around to find another group of the disks spinning toward him. Catching them in a Force grip, he threw them hard toward the far end of the building.

There was a warning flicker from the Force, and he looked down to find a dozen small rectangular droids skittering toward him on tiny legs. He slashed with his lightsaber, dodging around out of their reach as he winced in anticipation of more explosions. But there were no blasts from this type. Instead, pools of evil-looking green liquid spurted from each as he cut it open, and the room began to fill with the hissing and pungent fumes of acid as it ate its way into the permacrete and metal of the floor.

"Watch out!" Anakin's voice shouted from behind him.

He looked up from the acid droids to find a double squadron of small spheres with short glider wings shooting toward him. Ducking to the side, he threw himself into a flat roll that brought him up onto one knee. The spheres changed

course back toward him, and he slashed into the first with his lightsaber.

Obi-Wan gasped as the droid burst into a brilliant electrical discharge and sent a flash of current arcing into his arms and down his side, spasming his muscles and enveloping him briefly in a coronal haze. The other spheres were still coming; clenching his teeth, trying desperately to unknot his muscles, he swung his lightsaber up to meet them.

Even as Obi-Wan realized that he would never make it in time, there was a shout from behind him and Anakin leaped to the attack, his own lightsaber slashing back and forth among the spheres as he soared through their midst. By the time his feet hit the deck again, half the spheres were smoking pieces of rubble scattered on the deck. Ducking beneath the rest of them, Anakin stretched out his hand and sent them tumbling away.

"Thanks," Obi-Wan managed, fighting to unknot his muscles.

"No problem," Anakin said, pointing across the room. The Neimoidians were finally on the run, charging for all they were worth toward the exits. "Do we care if our friends leave?"

"No, let them go," Obi-Wan puffed, his knees shaking with the aftermath of the electrical attack. "You got the tech data download, didn't you?"

"Arthree's pulling it out now," Anakin assured him, nodding toward one of the corners of the room. "Looks like our other friends are regrouping."

Obi-Wan turned in that direction. The disk-shaped explosive droids he'd scattered earlier had gathered together in the corner, hovering in loose formation as if deciding how exactly to structure their next attack. "So are your shockers," he said, nodding to another corner where the winged spheres Anakin had dispersed had also congregated. The worker droids, he noted peripherally, had retreated to the ventilation corridor behind the rows of consoles, clearly wanting no part of this. "Looks like they're planning something."

"They're way too small to have that kind of intelligence," Anakin argued. "There must be someone or something else controlling them."

"Probably something in the mat itself," Obi-Wan suggested. "I thought I saw a glint of wires as it opened."

"Well, whatever's running them, let's get rid of them," Anakin said. "Uh-oh...."

"What?" Obi-Wan asked, stretching out toward the disks with the Force. To his surprise and consternation, he couldn't seem to get a good grip on any of them.

"They're vibrating," Anakin said. "Variable frequency, variable intensity. They're not going to be easy to—watch out!"

Obi-Wan dropped his gaze, his lightsaber swinging downward in his hands at the urgent prompting of the Force. Just in time, too; with his attention distracted by the hovering droids across the room, a half dozen of the acid droids had managed to sneak up on him. Even as the tip of his lightsaber blade sliced into the permacrete floor, the droid in the lead spat a narrow stream of green liquid at his torso. It hit the lightsaber blade and bounced back in a fan-shaped spray that washed over three of the others, sending them scurrying away in a flurry of hissing and burning outer shells.

Before any of the others could react, Anakin stretched out with the Force and flipped them over onto their backs, swiveling them to point their sprayers in a safe direction. "Cute," the younger man grunted as their short legs flailed around.

"That's okay," Obi-Wan told him grimly. "We can be cute, too. You think you can get a grip on one of those exploding disks for me?"

Anakin frowned in concentration. "Let me see...yes, got it."

"Then get ready," Obi-Wan told him. Getting one of the acid droids in a Force grip, he hurled it across the room toward the flying spheres.

It took the control system perhaps half a second to catch on—but that half-second was all it had. Even as the flying spheres broke formation and started to disperse, Anakin yanked his explosive droid out of the disk formation and hurled it on a collision course with Obi-Wan's acid droid.

Their paths intersected just in front of the scattering spheres, and with a flash of fire, the spheres were suddenly enveloped in a cloud of green acid. Even before the sound of the blast faded away, Obi-Wan and Anakin caught up the remaining acid droids and began hurling them like an interceptor missile spread at the remaining explosive disks.

The disks dodged frantically, but the droids were coming at them too quickly and there simply wasn't enough maneuvering space in their corner. Two more collisions, two more explosions of green smoke, and the battle was over.

"Well, that was fun," Anakin said. "You okay?"

"I think so," Obi-Wan said, eyeing the last of the smoking electrical droids as it settled unsteadily to the floor and lay still. Closing down his lightsaber, he wiggled his fingers experimentally. The numbness was nearly gone, though the shrapnel injuries across his back would require a healing trance somewhere down the road. "I'll be fine."

"Good," Anakin said. "Rule number one: Try not to be grounded when a high-voltage capacitor weapon zaps you."

"I'll try to remember that," Obi-Wan said dryly.

"Rule number two," Anakin went on, his voice suddenly tight as he held up his right hand. "Don't have an artificial hand when you do it."

A hand, Obi-Wan saw, that was visibly trembling. "Can you still fight with it?" he asked.

Anakin shrugged. "It's not too bad, but I may not be up to taking on a full garrison of battle droids." He walked over to the ripped mat, stepping carefully around the still sizzling pits in the permacrete. "Nice little booby-trap they've come up with."

"Yes," Obi-Wan said, studying it carefully. There was a thin base layer of machinery inside, but aside from that the thing looked pretty light—and waterproof, perhaps?

"Go get Arthree," he told Anakin, glancing around the room. His eyes fell on a group of three equipment racks, each of them over a meter wide and deep, and a good two meters tall, and he crossed over to it. Igniting his lightsaber, he sliced away the shelf supports, releasing the equipment boxes to crash onto the floor in a tangle of cables and power lines.

Lifting the three racks, Obi-Wan carried them back to the empty mat, laying them together on their sides in the center of the material. By the time Anakin returned with Arthree, he had the edges of the mat pulled tightly up around the sides, hooking the material in place on the mounting pins.

"This looks interesting," Anakin commented, eying the contraption. "I hope you don't think they're just going to let us float our way out of here."

"I'm hoping they'll have bigger things to worry about by then," Obi-Wan assured him, pulling out his lightsaber again and digging into the floor. "Put Arthree aboard and get ready."

He finished cutting their exit hole, letting the slab of permacrete drop into the surging river below. Together, he and Anakin lifted the makeshift boat over the opening and let it carefully down. Anakin, he noted with silent approval, had fastened a line to one end of the boat, which he now tethered to the upstream edge of the opening with his grapple. Gripping the edges of the hole, the two Jedi lowered themselves down.

To Obi-Wan's relief, his contraption did indeed float. "We're just going to ride the current?" Anakin shouted over the noise, squinting as the waves threw spray off the support pillars on either side.

"Yes, with a little troublemaking along the way," Obi-Wan said. Igniting his lightsaber, he slashed the blade at an angle across the nearest pillar. With a grinding thud, the top part of the column slid partially past the lower section, pulling a series of hairline cracks in the platform where the sudden dead weight now dragged at it.

"Ah," Anakin said, nodding his understanding. "Like you said, bigger things for them to worry about." He sliced through the pillar on the opposite side of the boat, then reached over and cut their anchor line.

The boat took off, bucking along the waves like a sprinting animal. The two Jedi kept busy, cutting every pillar within reach as they went. Ahead, the far edge of the platform loomed, and they shot out into the open area of the gorge to find a dozen battle droids on STAPs hovering in wait. Spotting the boat, they swiveled to face it and opened fire.

Obi-Wan stretched out with the Force, letting it guide his lightsaber as he deflected away the shots that came near. The boat passed beneath the sentry line, and he turned to keep his lightsaber between him and the droids as they spun around and gave chase. Keeping his weapon moving, deflecting the shots

straight back at the STAPs wherever possible, he settled into his defense.

They'd gone perhaps another dozen meters when it suddenly penetrated his combat tunnel vision that Anakin wasn't using the standard Jedi technique of deflecting the droids' own weapons back against them. In fact, as Obi-Wan paused for a quick breather, he saw that his Padawan's deflected shots were instead going harmlessly back toward the base itself.

Was his artificial hand still malfunctioning? If so, they were about to be in serious trouble. A fresh cluster of STAPs had appeared over the base, far more than he could handle alone. "Anakin!" he shouted over the water's roar. "You're not hitting the droids!"

"I'm not aiming for the droids!" the other shouted back. "I'm aiming for that power generator at the edge of the base!"

Obi-Wan smiled tightly. He should have known. Settling back into combat mode, he started aiming his own deflected shots toward the generator.

The droid reinforcements were just clearing the edge of the base when the generator blew, throwing debris into the air and sending a concussion wave down the gorge that nearly knocked Obi-Wan out of the boat. Through the smoke, he caught a glimpse of a dozen STAPs plummeting out of control, while beneath them a broken section of the base's permacrete platform collapsed ponderously into the river.

And with their base disintegrating and their Neimoidian masters in imminent danger of drowning, the droids did indeed suddenly have bigger things to worry about than a pair of escaping Jedi. As a slight bend in the gorge cut off his view, Obi-Wan saw the surviving STAPs turn around and head back for rescue duty.

Odds were, they weren't going to be there in time.



"They're called crawl-carriers," Anakin told Kirtan and Trissa when they were once again sitting around the kitchen table. "It's an experimental weapons-delivery system designed for anticity or antibase intrusion."

"So how is it better than a normal armored carrier?" Kirlian asked.

"Mainly because it can get its package a lot closer before it's spotted," Anakin said. "They travel very slowly when they detect sensor probes or nearby observers, and only pick up the pace when no one's looking. Throw in some camouflage, and they can be on your doorstep before you know it."

"It's not something you'd use in the middle of a battle," Obi-Wan added. "It's a long-term weapon you'd set moving days or even weeks before you plan to attack."

"Or you'd use it without any official attack at all," Kirlian growled. "Look at what it's carrying: antipersonnel explosives, building-collapsing acids, power-grid-wrecking capacitors. It strikes me more as a terror weapon."

"You could be right," Obi-Wan conceded. "We haven't really seen that sort of thing from the Separatists, but they may be starting to think in new directions."

"It seems so incredible," Trissa murmured. "You think something like this could actually work?"

"It already has," Obi-Wan told her grimly. "One of these has to be what brought down my scout ship." He looked sideways at Anakin. "Which brings us to the bad news. According to the base's records, that particular carrier is still on the loose."

Trissa caught her breath. "You mean it's in our fields?"

"Yours or someone else's," Anakin said. "The carriers are autonomous, which means that the fact that their base is gone hasn't bothered it any. If it was fully charged, it could keep going for a long time."

"But you can find it, can't you?" Trissa asked anxiously.

"We'll certainly try," Obi-Wan said. "I'll take the scout ship up first thing in the morning and do a scan. But with all its shielding and camouflage, it's going to be pretty hard to spot."

"Plus the fact that all our motion sensors are designed to locate and react to things coming in at high speed," Anakin added. "Probably why they were experimenting with something this slow in the first place."

"It has to be making for Vale City," Kirlian rumbled. "That's the only population center nearby big enough to bother with."

"I agree," Obi-Wan said. "We need to find it before it gets there." He hesitated. "And then figure out how to stop it."

"Can't you call in reinforcements?" Trissa asked.

"We can call, but they may not answer," Anakin said. "There's a lot of action going on in this sector right now, and we're spread pretty thin. Sector Command may not be able to free up anyone."

"Especially when all that's at stake is a minor city on an even more minor planet?" Kirlian asked bluntly.

Obi-Wan grimaced but nodded. "Yes," Kirlian nodded back. "Thanks for being honest. Okay, then. Can you destroy it?"

"I don't know," Obi-Wan had to admit. "They're programmed for threat analysis and response, which is why the one at the base opened when I approached it. Out there, with more potential targets than just me, the droids may very well scatter before Anakin and I can deal with all of them. We need a way to destroy the whole thing at once before that can happen."

"I have a question," Trissa said. "What happens if you attack it and don't destroy it, but it hasn't reached Vale yet?"

"Then it'll attack whatever it can find," Obi-Wan said quietly. "That means one or more of the homesteads."

"And they'll kill everyone there," Trissa murmured.

Obi-Wan nodded. "Yes." He paused, waiting for the inevitable accusations and recriminations because, ultimately, all of this was his fault. If he hadn't been flying low enough for the crawl-carrier to pick him off, or if he and Anakin had simply left with the rest of the survey team early this morning, none of this would be happening.

But to his mild surprise, the inevitable didn't happen. Kirlian and Trissa looked at each other with that silent communication he'd seen before in people who were very close; and with a microscopic nod from each, they turned to the two Jedi. "Then I guess we'll have to make sure that doesn't happen," Kirlian said firmly, getting to his feet. "Come on."

"Where are we going?" Obi-Wan asked as the other led the way out of the kitchen and down the hall. Kirlian didn't answer but merely walked to the living room and

gestured inside. Obi-Wan stepped through the entryway and blinked. Sitting quietly on the chairs and couches were most of the same friends and neighbors Kirlian and Trissa had assembled the first night he'd been here. "I wondered who all the other people were," Anakin murmured from behind him.

"I didn't even notice," Obi-Wan confessed, studying their faces. The last time he'd faced this group, their predominant emotions had been fear and antagonism. The fear was still there, but now it was colored with determination and support. "What's going on?"

"I should think that was obvious," Hanco said. The same man, Obi-Wan remembered, who a few days ago had flatly accused him of bringing the war to Dagro. "Kirlian said you might need some help. That's us."

"I see," Obi-Wan said. "Don't take this the wrong way, but what changed your minds?"

Hanco grinned tightly. "You did," he said. "Kirlian gave you about the lowest job we've got, stripping crop stubble. And you did it. Not only that, but you did it without complaining." He raised his chin a little. "That makes you okay in my book."

"And besides," Kirlian added, "like you said, the war's already here. I guess it's time we did our part."

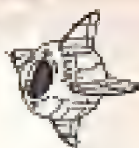
Anakin cleared his throat. "No disrespect or anything, but I'm not sure you're really equipped for this sort of fight."

"Whether we are or not, we can at least help with the first part of your problem," Kirlian said. "That crawl-carrier may be invisible to city folks who don't get out in the real world more than once a year, but it hasn't got a chance of hiding from people who know our fields as well as we do."

"And as to the rest of it, you might be surprised," Hanco said calmly. "Come on in and sit down. We've got some serious strategizing to do."

By the time the meeting broke up three hours later, they had the beginnings of a workable plan.

Two days later, when one of Hanco's daughters finally spotted the crawl-carrier, they were ready to move.



"There," Obi-Wan said, pointing out the harvester's cab at a section of stubble where a sargeet field had recently been harvested. "A little north of the center."

Beside him at the harvester's controls, Kirian shook his head. "I'll take your word for it," he said. "I still can't see the blasted thing."

"Frankly, neither can I," Obi-Wan admitted, shifting his gaze to his right. Hanco's harvester was paralleling them a few meters away with Hanco hunched determinedly over the controls. Beyond it, Obi-Wan could see the tops of Hanco's house and barn, well within range of the carrier's attack droids if this didn't work. Probably one reason for the man's grim expression. "But Hanco's sure. That's good enough for me."

"Obi-Wan?" Anakin's voice came from his comlink. "We're ready."

"So are we," Obi-Wan confirmed. "Let's do it."

"Right."

Slipping the comlink back into his belt, Obi-Wan opened the side door of the cab. "Be sure to stay to the right, on the carrier's eastern edge," he reminded Kirian. "And whatever you do, don't even look like you're going to run over it."

"Got it," Kirian said, his voice tight. "Good luck."

"Thanks." Catching the edge of the doorframe, Obi-Wan swung himself out onto the top step. He shifted grip, turned, and climbed the rest of the way up onto the pile of crop stubble bulging over the side walls of the harvester's wide grain bin. He crossed to the left-hand side, wincing at the stubble's scratchiness as he waded through it. Ahead and to the left, rumbling southbound toward them on the other side of the harvested field, were two more harvesters with Pickers and Jurvi at their controls. Perched on the heaped stubble atop the nearest one—Jurvi's—was Anakin.

The four harvesters were nearing the camouflaged carrier now, Kirian's and Hanco's on the eastern edge, the other two aiming to pass just to the west of it, and Obi-Wan found himself holding his

breath. According to the base's records, the carrier had been out here a week and a half, and in that time it must surely have seen passing harvesters and concluded they weren't a threat.

The question was whether seeing four of them together would be perceived as somewhat less innocent.

Obi-Wan could make out the carrier now, looking for all the world like a slightly raised section of harvested sargeet field. Gazing across its artificial stubble, he saw Anakin lean toward his harvester's cab window and say something, and Jurvi made a slight adjustment in their direction.

Still no reaction from the carrier. Reaching to his belt, Obi-Wan got a grip on his lightsaber and braced himself.

Right on cue, with the carrier barely five meters ahead, Pickers suddenly slowed his harvester, letting Jurvi's roll past it, then made a hard left turn to cut across in front of the crawl-carrier's northern edge. At the same time, Jurvi pushed his throttle to full speed, and Obi-Wan had to grab for a handhold as Kirian did likewise with his harvester. Glancing over his shoulder, he saw Hanco pull a mirror image of Pickers' maneuver, cutting behind Kirian's harvester to run alongside the crawl-carrier's southern edge. With a precision that would have done a drill team proud, the harvesters braked to a stop, neatly surrounding the carrier on all four sides.

Even before they came to a halt, Obi-Wan had leaped down from the bin, landing beside Kirian's harvester. Igniting his lightsaber, he made two quick slashes, slicing through the latches on the side of the bin.

And as he stretched to the Force and jumped sideways and backward out of the way, the side wall of the bin burst open, releasing the load of gravel that had been concealed beneath the camouflaging layer of crop stubble. His leap landed him beside Hanco's harvester; and as the roar of flowing rock filled the air, he slashed again, opening up Hanco's bin and adding its load of gravel to the flow. Leaping straight up out of the way, he caught the side of the bin and pulled himself up onto the cab, turning around to look.

It was an even more impressive sight than he'd expected. Already the gravel pouring in from four directions had cov-

ered most of the crawl-carrier with only a small area in the center still visible. Lifting his lightsaber, he watched the clear area closely, wondering if the carrier would have time to spring at least a couple of its attack droids.

But it didn't. The last bit of the war machine vanished beneath the gravel, and the pile grew deeper, until finally the roaring subsided and only the idling of the harvesters' engines remained.

"Everything's set," Obi-Wan said, climbing out of Anakin's starfighter and stepping over to where the Swens family waited. "An analysis team will be here tomorrow. They'll dig out the crawl-carrier and take it with them for study."

"Good luck to them," Kirian said doubtfully. "The thing's pretty well flattened."

"These teams are used to looking at stuff that's crashed or been blown up," Anakin pointed out dryly. "Trust me; this'll be a walk in the park. What did General Bavris say about the bounty?"

"That's set, too," Obi-Wan confirmed.

"Bounty?" Trissa asked, frowning.

"There's a reward for discovering and turning in new Separatist equipment," Obi-Wan explained. "It should be more than enough to cover all the harvester catches Anakin and I wrecked, plus hauling the gravel back out of Hanco's field, plus hopefully enough left over to pay all of you back for the time you took off from your work schedules."

"Are you leaving us?" Zizzy asked, a note of protest in her voice.

"Yeah, can't you stay awhile?" Kit seconded.

"I'm sorry," Obi-Wan said, looking at the children. "Maybe someday we can come back. Right now, though, we have a war to fight."

He looked back at Kirian and Trissa. "And with luck," he added, "that task will keep all of us a long way from your world."

"We can hope so," Kirian said, stretching out his hand to grip Obi-Wan's. "But if the war does come back to Dagro, you know who to call."

"We will," Obi-Wan said. "May the Force be with you."

"And may the Jedi be with us," Trissa added. "Always."

The End



By Steve Sansweet

Elliott Finds My Holy Grail— And Gets It Free!

New proprietor, same shop. Insider has undergone some changes and will undergo some more in coming months as the new team at IDG Entertainment eases into the job. They have some great things planned that will appeal to fans and collectors as the all-new Hyperspace: The Official Star Wars Fan Club builds on past successes and both broadens its reach and deepens its offerings. And as the new crew is heavy on both active fans and collectors, you can expect to see collectibles coverage increase in the magazine and online at [starwars.com Hyperspace](http://starwars.com/Hyperspace).

With the summer convention season well underway, along with an extraordinary number of summer-convention and StarWarsShop.com exclusives—as well as the first peek at what's coming next year—there's a building excitement among us collectors. And there are some new licensees with extraordinary new collectibles covering both the original trilogy and Episode III that you'll be reading about soon.

With this column, we're instituting a new feature: Pick of the Litter...uh, Letter. (Too late to change? Whatever!) We'll choose the best litter/letter of the issue—strictly nonobjectively—and the winner will get a cool dupe from my personal collection. Of course, I also get to

say what's cool, but, hey, you can always sell it on eBay. So without further delay, let's see what's on your minds this time around.

I am a Canadian currently living in Japan. On my last birthday, my brother-in-law went to a famous Star Wars store in Tokyo. My gift was a Boba Fett room alarm. When a person

passes in front of the figure, a motion sensor is set off and good old Boba says two things or there are blaster sounds. He also comes with a toy blaster that can be shot at him, and he'll shoot back. I was wondering if this 30-centimeter tall figure is rare and how many were made. This isn't from Hasbro; it is a Tiger Electronics item.

JJ Hamilton—Okayama, Japan

**“...most companies
never give out
production figures.”**

I'm happy that *Insider's* reach is so far, JJ! Your brother-in-law got you a cool gift because of what the 12-inch room alarm looks like and what it does, but it's not particularly rare. As you noted, it was made by Tiger, and it came out in 1998 shortly before Hasbro purchased the company. As is fairly typical for a non-Japanese-produced toy, it uses the same English-language box with stickers applied to the front and back to give all necessary information. In the U.S., the current price is about \$10 to \$12, or around half the original retail price. By the way, except for numbered, limited-edition collectibles, most companies never give out production figures.

I'm 30, and of course I wish I kept my original Star Wars posters and other items from the 1980s. Something I

don't remember seeing but would love to have are buttons or pins of the different Republic and Empire eras and logos, things like the Empire, Old Republic, Rebel Alliance, New Republic, etc. I know there are patches, but I prefer lapel pins or buttons since they are easily interchangeable. Can anyone help?

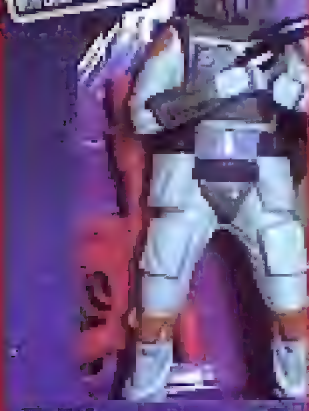
Peter Bruce—Concord, NH

Sure, eBay can. I just did a search for “Star Wars pin” and found 198 active and 455 recently completed auctions. There have been plenty of pins, buttons, badges, or whatever you want to call them, just like the ones you seek. I'm sure you could gather a small collection in a relatively short period at a fairly modest price. Happy hunting!



FRANCIS YAO

STAR WARS

BOBA FETT
ROOM ALARM
WITH LIGHT AND SOUND

I kinda have a big problem. I bought a vinyl-cape Jawa (MIP) from a friend for \$700. My dog ate the cape the other day. I've followed the dog around and didn't get the cape back (just a large vet bill). Since I don't have the cape and the Jawa is unchewed, is it like...uh...worth anything? I did get rid of the dog and got another (MIP) figure (not for \$700).

Chris Johnson—Kokomo, IN

I don't make this stuff up, folks. But I can't assure you that my correspondents aren't taking courses in creative writing. I'm not saying I disbelieve you, Chris, but your letter does strain credulity, especially for a dog lover like me. You gave up the dog because it ate a piece of vinyl even after you paid a veterinarian bill? Why did you take him/her to the vet? Is vinyl life threatening? If the Jawa was, as you say, mint in package (MIP), how did the dog get the cape? What happened to

the package? But the biggest hurdle for me to overcome is that you say you bought a mint, packaged vinyl-cape Jawa for only \$700! If I were to suspend my disbelief and

answer your question, the vinyl cape-missing figure alone is like...uh...worth about \$10.

I have a Bogwing from the Star Wars Trading Card Game from Wizards of the Coast. It has a smear going through the center of the picture. Is it a printing error or was it made like this on purpose? If it was an error, is the trading card worth more?

Nicholas Allen—Davidsonville, MD

I haven't had this much fun reading letters in a long time! Nicholas—you've found the super-rare smeary Bogwing variation; send it back to Wizards of the Coast for a \$10,000 reward! C'mon, you guys, get real. It's a piece of cardstock with a smear; I wouldn't give you one red cent for it. If you send it back, you might get a clean one in return.

First off, I love your column. It's the first thing I turn to when I receive Insider. Years ago, a good friend gave me the remnants of his childhood Star Wars memorabilia to add to my own growing collection. One item was an R2-D2 vinyl lunch pail that I had never seen anywhere before. I searched through both editions of your Tomart collectors' price guide, but to no avail. In an article showcasing your collection (Insider 71), I noticed that you had the same lunch pail in a glass display case that also housed rare figures and prototypes. Could you please give me an estimated price on this piece as I've been unable to find any documentation on it.

Elliott Cardwell—Lansing, MI

Flattery will get you far. A very rare collectible will get you ever farther. You



"I don't make this stuff up, folks."



line art in a Thermos ad slick from 1978. I assumed it had never been produced because I never saw it in stores or at dealers' booths at the scores of shows I attended.

Then I started asking lunchbox dealers, and one of the most knowledgeable said he believed that very small quantities were actually produced as salesman's samples...but that they were highly sought by lunchbox collectors, too. I started leaving my card with such dealers. One day, in the summer of 1995, I got a call, and the dealer actually had a strong lead on one but warned it would be costly. "I've been looking for this for 10 years," I replied. "Hang the cost!" And so I ended up with one of my most sought-after items. After examining it closely, it's easy to see why it never went into production. While the idea and visual appearance are great, the vinyl and top are flimsy, and the hinge where the zipper stops is too small and would break off fairly quickly. (Of course, it's possible that the production model would have been of stronger material.)

So, you've got a really good friend, Elliott. On such a rare item, it's always a negotiation between eager buyer and willing seller, but I'd place the price today between \$1500-\$2000 plus.

have only the third Thermos R2-D2 vinyl lunch pail or bucket that I know to exist, although I'm sure there are more. This baby is under glass at Rancho Obi-Wan because it was one of my Holy Grails, one that took me a decade to track down. I first saw it as black-and-white

I was wondering if you could tell me what you know about the difference in name for the same figure? There's the Death Squad Commander and the Star Destroyer Commander.

Chris Baker—Toronto, Canada

it's a matter of taste and civility and memories. "Death Squad" evokes many bad memories tied to wars for a lot of people, and it really wasn't a name used in the Star Wars movies. So Kenner Products and Lucasfilm made the decision to use a kinder, gentler name, "Star Destroyer," when the figure showed up on a new card for *The Empire Strikes Back*.



I received a boxed set of four The Empire Strikes Back placemats from a friend. It says on the cover that the trademark is used by "Sigma, the taste setter," a TOWLE company. I have never seen anything like these and was wondering how rare they are. And what is the value?

Chris Dougall—Granger, IN
Wow, lots of friends giving other friends cool Star Wars stuff! Sigma is best known for an amusing line of Star Wars ceramic pieces that came out prior to *Return of the Jedi*. The placemat set was widely available, and there's not a huge interest in such pieces these days, so I'd say they might sell for around \$10-\$15 for the set.

I recently acquired some Star Wars blueprints to some of the original stuff like R2-D2, the Jawa sandcrawler, and the Millennium Falcon. My friend says they're worth \$400. Is he right, or are they worthless?

Andrew Kaklamanos—Shelton, CT





Andrew, as you're growing up, you'll learn that sometimes friends don't know what they're talking about—or are having some fun with you. When people tell me they know that something is worth \$XXXX, I tell them, "Great! If I were you, I'd sell it for that immediately!" Call your friend's bluff and tell him that because he's such a good friend, you'll sell the blueprints to him for only \$200—or about \$197 more than they're worth.

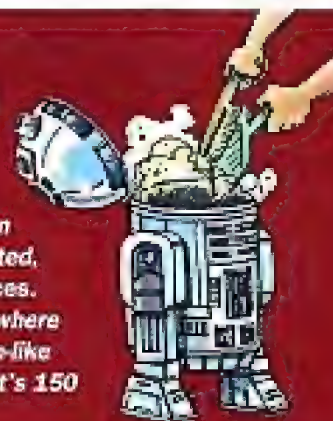
Please send your questions and comments about collectibles to: Scouting the Galaxy, P.O. Box 2898, Petaluma, CA, 94953-2898. Or you may e-mail them to scouting@insider.starwars.com, making sure to put your hometown in the e-mail along with your full name. Letters won't be answered without both your name and city. Individual replies aren't possible because of time constraints, but we'll answer the questions of broadest interest in the column. Letters are edited for grammar, sense, and length.

PICK OF THE LITTER

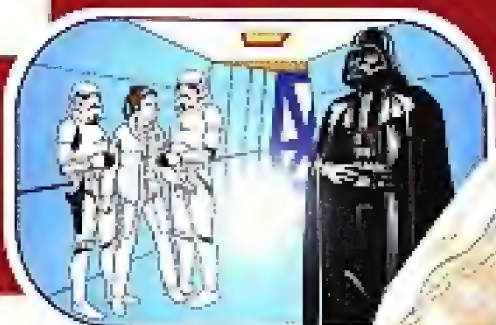
In a few weeks, I'll be moving from New York City to a galaxy far, far away: Davenport, Florida. My wife is tired of being surrounded in our tiny apartment by 3-inch action figures. So when our new home in sunny Florida is completed, she plans to decorate with design ideas from Trading Spaces. This will leave my figures and me cast out to the garage, where there is no central air! Can my figures survive the Tatooine-like heat? Can I expect any damage? I only want to do this if it's 150 percent safe!

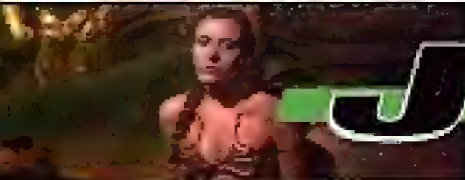
Matthew Brojanowski—Davenport, FL

Matthew, I think you need advice more from a marriage counselor than from Scouting, but let me try. Will your figures hold up well in an uncool garage in Florida's heat and humidity? You really already know the answer to that, don't you? Just in case: No! (As for how well you'll hold up, that's between you and your wife.) The plastic blisters will start to turn yellow, and some of the figures will develop plastic rot well before their time. I can sympathize with her desires, but isn't there some room for compromise? Literally: A small room in the house that can be yours for the collection? Or a family room where at least one wall can be a nice, neat display of your favorite figures in acrylic cases? I also heartily suggest that you buy an AC unit for the garage...especially if you find yourself sleeping out there with your figures!



"Can my figures survive the Tatooine-like heat?"





What's Old Is New Again: The OTC Collection

In just a few short months, the classic Star Wars trilogy will finally arrive on DVD and millions of fans will be transported back to the 1970s and 1980s. To fuel nostalgia, most of Hasbro's Star Wars line will be part of the Original Trilogy Collection (or OTC) with packaging inspired by the popular Kenner toys of that era.

Last issue, *Insider* showcased the all-new "vintage" 3-inch scale and "vintage" 12-inch scale figures. Since that time, a checklist for the complete basic figure collection appeared online at hasbro.com and starwars.com. But in the spirit of the "good old days," we're including that checklist here as well, for those who remember the tactile sensation of casually taking a marker to the back of their figure cards. Don't be shy...cross them off as you pick them up.

Original Trilogy Collection Millennium Falcon

More than just a fast ship, the *Millennium Falcon* is arguably one of the main characters of Episodes IV-VI. In the days of Kenner, this vehicle-and-playset-in-one



was the pride of every kid old enough to hoist it into the sky. It sported a chess table, rotating radar dish, gunner station, Jedi training remote on a string, a cockpit for two, and even a false floor to hide your figures from intruding Imperials.

With the Special Edition theatrical releases in 1997, Hasbro brought back the *Millennium Falcon* toy. Based on the original-era mold, this "Power of the Force" version brought back the fun of childhood. However, modern-era fig-



ures have a greater variety of poses and muscle-tone, and so the cockpit wasn't always figure-friendly.

Available for the first time in seven years, the OTC *Falcon* sports a redesigned cockpit to fit the new 3-inch figures more easily. Other exciting improvements include:

- new light-up back engine thrusters
- firing missile
- "jump to hyperspace" lights and sounds
- flying and blaster sounds

Look for the OTC *Millennium Falcon* at most major toy retailers this fall. "She's got a few surprises left in her!"

Other OTC Vehicles

The entire Battle of Yavin receives black-and-silver OTC treatment this fall, including the stalwart X-wing fighter and TIE fighter, which will be available at major retailers.

From Podracers to Jedi starfighters to TIE fighters, Anakin Skywalker could never resist customizing his vehicles. As he engaged the rebels ship-to-ship in the Death Star trenches, Darth Vader flew a TIE Advanced x1 fighter with a bigger engine, deflector shields, and larger, angled wings.



Go to starwars.com
to see more Hasbro
collectibles!

Exclusive to Toys 'R' Us stores, the OTC Darth Vader TIE fighter comes with a Darth Vader action figure.

Also at Toys 'R' Us, look for the Rebel Alliance's rugged combat craft, the Y-wing starfighter. This OTC exclusive comes with a figure of the ill-fated Gold Leader, Jon "Dutch" Vander.



Rounding out the Original Trilogy Collection vehicle set is Boba Fett's *Slave I* with Boba Fett figure. Available exclusively at Target stores, this vehicle is based on the newer Jango Fett's *Slave I* toy released in 2002 and has the same play features, such as pivoting laser canons, missile launchers, and rotating stabilizer wings. It has been updated with the paint scheme seen in *The Empire Strikes Back*.



Commemorative Trilogy DVD Figure Sets

The striking rendering of Darth Vader's menacing helmet featured on the Star Wars Trilogy DVD set will also haunt three unique 3 3/4-inch figure multi-packs at Wal-Mart.

Re-create the *Star Wars: A New Hope* gathering with Obi-Wan Kenobi, Luke Skywalker, R2-D2, and C-3PO. Hunt for

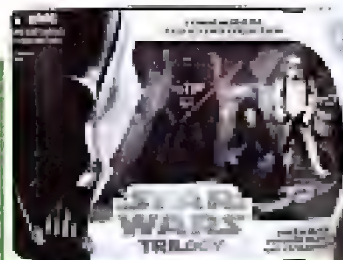
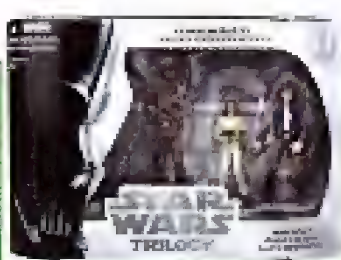
mynocks with Han Solo, Princess Leia, and Chewbacca from *The Empire Strikes Back*. The *Return of the Jedi* pack features the icons of evil—Darth Vader, Imperial Stormtrooper, and the Emperor himself.

Original Trilogy Exclusive Figures

At least two retailer-exclusive figures are planned to round out your collection of retro items.

Fans of the large figure line will want to pick up the 12-inch scale Chewbacca from Kay Bee Toys. And look for the announcement of a StarWarsShop.com exclusive 3-inch figure debuting this October. Happy Hunting!

—starwars.hasbro.com with Paul Ens



**D****RAWN BY THE FORCE**
COMICS

Clash of the Titans

Master and Apprentice Come to Blows in Star Wars Republic's "Armor"

When two tectonic plates collide, the result is a massive geological pile-up—just ask the Himalayas. And when two plates are drifting toward one another, the question isn't whether they will collide but when. Ever since Quinlan Vos turned to the dark side, he's been destined for a confrontation with his former Padawan Aayla Secura, and "Armor," Issue #68 of *Star Wars Republic*, is their long-awaited fault line.

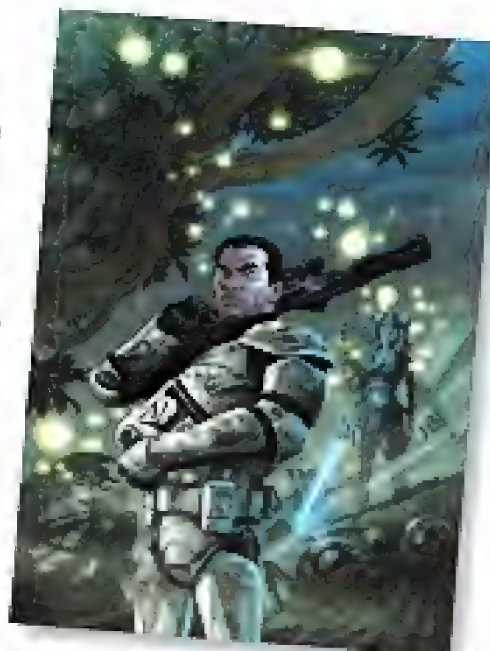
Quinlan Vos is one of the perennial stars of *Republic*, debuting in Issue #17 and playing a key role in numerous story arcs since then. Aayla Secura, the supple, blue-skinned Twi'lek, has appeared in fewer issues but was apparently so popular with George Lucas that he included her as a character in *Attack of the Clones*, portrayed by Amy Allen.

Quinlan—although based on a background character in *The Phantom Menace*—has yet to achieve silver-screen stardom, but with Episode III still a year away, the conflicted Jedi Knight has one more shot at the big time.

"Quin has been walking a shadowed path and has not admitted to himself that he is falling to the dark side," says artist Jan Duursema. "He thinks he can handle the situation as long as he uses what he has learned of the dark side to help win the war for the Republic."

The Jedi Council disagrees with this rash course of action, and at this point in the war most of them admit Quinlan, once a loyal spy operating within the enemy's ranks, has gone rogue.

"Armor" opens approximately two years into the Clone Wars. On the surface, the title refers to the new look of Episode III's clone troopers—*Republic* Issue #68 will be one of the first Expanded Universe sources to bring the retro-looking battle suits into the official continuity. But scratch a bit deeper, and the title becomes a meditation on faith and loyalty. Explains Duursema, "A clone's armor is visible and tangible. The Jedi's armor is the Force. Aayla's



faith and trust in Quin seems to be part of her armor—or is it the flaw in it?"

The setting for this showdown will be familiar to EU fans. The 1992 novel *Dark Force Rising* introduced the planet Honohr, homeworld of the fierce, pint-sized Noghris who served Grand Admiral Thrawn (and originally Darth Vader) as assassins. The Honohr of *Dark Force Rising* is a defoliated wasteland, and readers were told that it had suffered an ecological catastrophe during the Clone Wars. Picking up on this old continuity thread, "Armor" writer John Ostrander

has woven a new story around this tragedy and incorporated elements of a classic quest.

As the story opens, a Separatist ship crashes on Honohr and begins to leak toxins into the planet's bedrock. This is the poison that will eventually lead to worldwide devastation, but of more immediate importance to the war effort is the Scientific Information Packet (SIP) that details the Separatists' plans to unleash the biological weapon on other worlds, including Naboo.

After the Noghris lock this information inside a vault in the heart of a booby-trapped temple, the SIP becomes the MacGuffin that leads the Republic and Confederacy into battle. On one side is Aayla Secura, general in the Republic Grand Army and agent of the Jedi Council. On the other is Quinlan Vos, who has vowed to recover the SIP for Count Dooku. Teaming up might be the only way to recover the black box, but their incompatible passions won't let them work together for long.

"We knew there had to be a confrontation between them," says Duursema, speaking of the straight-arrow Jedi student and her deeply flawed mentor. "Aayla had to be the one to open Quin's eyes. She is very in tune with the light side of the Force, yet she has a deep understanding of the dark side since she once fell under the thrall of the Dark Anzati Jedi, Volfe Karkko." (See *Republic* #32–35.)

TALKING HEAD

Released last month in trade paperback, *Infinities: Return of the Jedi* takes the story line from the movie we know and love, and spins it off in a wildly different direction when C-3PO's head pops off during the negotiations to release Han Solo from his carbonite prison on the wall of Jabba's palace.

The resulting story—written by Adam Gallardo with art by Ryan Benjamin and Salera Crawford—hits familiar beats, yet

remains fresh and full of surprises. The 104-page trade, released July 28, contains all four issues of the original run.

For other takes on the "Butterfly Effect," see the trade paperbacks of the two previous *Star Wars* alternate-history experiments: *Infinities: A New Hope* and *Infinities: The Empire Strikes Back*.



Go to starwars.com to read more info on other comics!



"Aayla's faith and trust in Quin seems to be part of her armor—or is it the flaw in it?"

By way of a parallel, *Star Wars* fans know of two other conflicts in the movie saga between Master and apprentice. The first clash between Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, in the as-yet-unreleased Episode III, left Anakin a broken man. Their second meeting cost Obi-Wan Kenobi his life.

Ostrander and Duursema don't want to reveal too much about the outcome of "Armor," but both characters in the story carry some heavy emotional baggage.

So does that mean a Vaderesque redemption is possible for Quinlan? "We know that Anakin/Vader is redeemed," says Ostrander. "But the ending hasn't been written yet for Quin, so there are many possibilities—good/bad, dead/alive, redeemed/damned."

Duursema expands on the backstory behind their confrontation. "Aayla usually trusts her instincts, but her emotional attachment to her former Master is clouding her judgment," says Duursema. "Quin is part of her armor—her faith in him and all that he taught her protects her. Her attachment to him is also the flaw in her armor."

The story also introduces Clone Commander Bly, a high-ranking clone soldier working under the command of Aayla. One of a new breed of clones, he sports the latest style of armor and has more independence than many of his brethren. *Republic* #68 is told entirely from Bly's perspective with independent insights into both Aayla and Quinlan. Fans can be certain that they haven't seen the last of Bly.

"Star Wars is always about choices and redemption," says Duursema, but she confesses that Quinlan hasn't taken the necessary steps toward redemption. He still believes that he's doing good work. Like all addicts, he thinks he's in control of the situation and can step back from the abyss at any time. And despite some of the horrors Quinlan has committed in Count Dooku's name, Aayla still hasn't given up on him.

Duursema says she can't help but wonder if there isn't a germ of truth buried in Quinlan's self-deception. "Is the dark side still wrong if it is used to win a war for the 'good guys'?" she asks.—Daniel Wallace





Attack of the Clone Consciences

Steven Barnes explores what it means to be human

They're the cannon fodder of the Clone Wars—the genetic duplicates of Jango Fett who make up the Grand Army of the Republic, battling Count Dooku's Separatists on countless worlds. And for an author keenly interested in the struggles that make us human, they represent a nearly irresistible challenge.

"I wanted to give one of those characters independent hopes and dreams and see what happened," says Steven Barnes of *The Cestus Deception* (Del Rey, \$25.95). That character is CT-96/298, nicknamed "Nate," an ARC Trooper dispatched to Ord Cestus as part of a unit supporting Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Kit Fisto.

His starting point for *The Cestus Deception* was the idea of the Republic's clones encountering a peaceful people in the

"I wanted to give one of those characters independent hopes and dreams...."

midst of a war rolling in their direction, a situation he compares to old Gary Cooper movies. That initial idea survived to become a crucial part of the novel, knitted together with the furious action that you'd expect from the latest chapter of the Clone Wars.

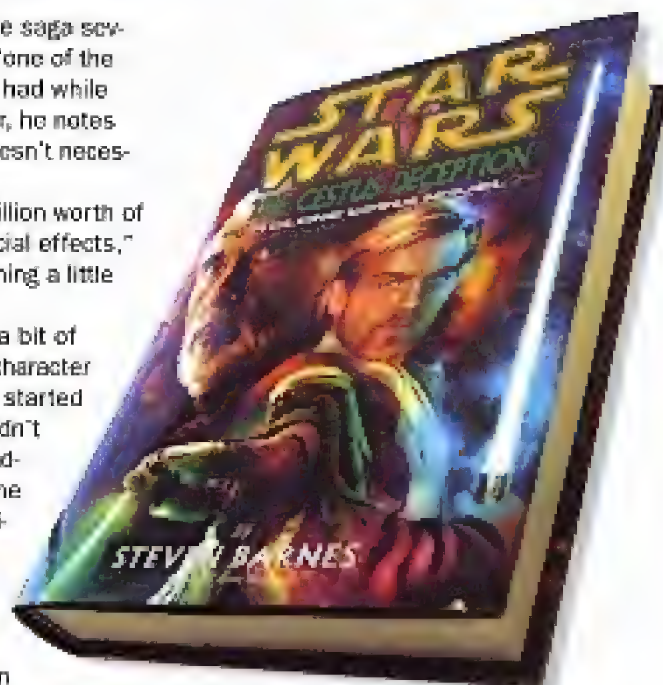
To make sure he had the feel for the Star Wars universe, Barnes says he

watched all five movies of the saga several times—a task he calls "one of the happiest experiences" he's had while researching a book. However, he notes that what works onscreen doesn't necessarily work on the page.

"You can't imitate \$50 million worth of Industrial Light & Magic special effects," he says. "I had to do something a little bit quieter."

Different research—and a bit of rework—was needed for the character of Ventress. Barnes says he started working from pictures and didn't get to read her comic-book adventures until well along in the writing of his first draft. His initial take on her didn't quite have the feral quality she required. Barnes describes that first effort as more cat-like than snakelike—but from the beginning, he got Ventress's "sense of controlled lethality" and her passion and near-sensuality in combat.

Barnes also enjoyed creating the X'Ting, the insectile species native to Cestus. Barnes says he originally saw them as little more than background characters, but he decided he wanted to further explore their culture and sad history—a Star Wars take on the age-old tragedy of an indigenous people encountering a more technologically advanced culture.



Whether Barnes' future novels are mysteries, alternate histories (check out his 2002 novel *Lion's Blood*), science fiction, or new chapters in the Star Wars saga, it's certain that they'll deal with the theme closest to his heart: digging for the deepest truths about who we are.

"What I'm hoping is in the future of my work, I'll be able to find more ways of dealing with what is human that are transnational and transethnic," he says. —Jason Fry

LONG-RANGE SENSORS

Introduced this summer, *MedStar I: Battle Surgeons* is the first of two books by Michael Reaves and Steve Perry chronicling the adventures of a Republic medical unit. (The series wraps up with October's *Jedi Healer*.) Then there's November's *Jedi Trial* by David Sherman and Dan Cragg, starring Anakin Skywalker.

In Yoda: *Dark Rendezvous*, newcomer Sean Stewart will tell an adventure of the

Jedi master pursuing Count Dooku himself. Look for it in December. Then, in February, James Luceno will be back with a "prequel" novel to Episode IV, *Labyrinth of Evil*. Del Rey Executive Editor Shelly Shapiro promises that the Luceno novel will explain a lot about what's going on as the saga's final chapter begins.

Jumping ahead in Star Wars time, Roy Denning is at work on his trilogy set after *The New Jedi Order*. Shapiro offers a few hints: The Kiiiks play a role, and a few loose ends will be

wrapped up, including the fate of Raynar Thul and some characters last seen in *Star by Star*. The series begins next summer.

And, of course, there's the original trilogy: Look for a new omnibus edition of the novelizations of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi*, timed to accompany the September DVD releases of those movies.

Go to starwars.com for more information on other books.



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Star Wars: Battlefront

The galaxy's most famous battles are yours to win—or lose—with LucasArts' new online multiplayer epic.

Fight any battle, play any side, pilot any vehicle. That's what LucasArts and Pandemic Studios are promising with *Star Wars: Battlefront*, a militaristic epic that will hurl players into the trenches of Hoth and under the torrential skies of Kamino to take part in the most legendary skirmishes ever put on celluloid.

The game is specifically geared for online team-based gameplay; the PlayStation 2 and Xbox versions will enable up to 16 people to play simultaneously, while the PC version should be able to support double that number. The result will be an ambitious excursion into the explosive military side of the *Star Wars* mythos, where working together with other people is paramount to your success in bringing the galaxy under your control.

Changing History

Battlefront is being developed by Pandemic Studios, which previously worked on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. After that project, Producer Jim Tso and his team were brimming with ideas for another game. "We looked at *Clone Wars*, what we thought went right, and what wasn't so good," Tso says. "We wanted to focus on multiplayer. We wanted a game that was a nonlinear, open-ended kind of game. We also wanted to do classic content from Episodes IV, V, and VI."

But *Battlefront* is much more than *Clone Wars* set in a different time periods, Tso explains. "In *Clone Wars*, we

were much more centered around and focused on a story, which were the events after Episode II, whereas in this case, we're really not focused on a story or any particular timeline. We're offering the player a 'what if?' situation. The Rebels lost the battle of Hoth, right? But hey—maybe when you're playing, you can win. So I think it's that open-ended nature that's the main difference."

"You May Start Your Landing"

Spanning all six movies, *Battlefront* enables you to join with and play against other players over the Internet to engage in massive galactic campaigns on Bespin, Tatooine, Naboo, Endor, Hoth, Geonosis, Yavin IV, and Kamino. Players will also get a sneak peak of the Wookiee planet, Kashyyyk, and hardcore fans will recognize the planet Rhen Var from the *Tales of the Jedi* comic series.

Plus, the game is unique in that it lets you choose which faction you want to join depending on the time period a specific battle is set. During battles that take place throughout Episodes I-III, you can fight alongside Separatist or Republic forces, and for missions taking place during the classic-trilogy time period, you can choose between the Rebel Alliance and the Empire.

Factions have five soldier classes, each with a unique set of skills. The first four classes are the same for every group—all-around soldier, pilot, marksman, and heavy assault—and each will specialize in certain types of weaponry, including blasters, torpedo launchers, sniper rifles, wrist launchers, and thermal detonators. In addition, all sides will have unique fifth classes. For the Imperials, it's the imposing Dark Trooper, who can quickly leap around the battlefield using a jump-pack.

The Rebel forces use scouts, who can disguise themselves as storm-troopers.

Many planets will also feature A.I.-controlled third factions, who will join in on the action. The Ewoks will help the Rebels by attacking the Imperials; the Geonosians will assist the Separatists; and the Wookiees will lend support to the Republic cause on Kashyyyk.



Go to starwars.com for more information on *Star Wars* games.



Some third-party factions are neutral, such as the Tusken Raiders, and will attack both teams.

Of course, you can't wage interplanetary warfare without some heavy artillery. In *Battlefront*, you'll not only be able to man turrets, but you'll also be able to pilot over 30 vehicles like X-wing fighters, snowspeeders, Jedi starfighters, TIE fighters, half-fire-class droid tanks, and AT-ATs on the fly. Of special note is the Republic gunship, which controls a lot like a helicopter in that it can hover and strafe in the air, and enables you to have multiple teammates inside to rain down destruction on Separatist forces from above. In addition to vehicles, you'll also be able to mount creatures, such as tauntauns and kaddus, on certain maps.

Conquering the Galaxy

One promising feature of the game is the Galactic Conquest mode, in which you play through a series of maps across different planets. If your team controls a certain planet, you'll be able to take advantage of planetary bonuses like jamming your enemy's radar, dismantling their mini-map, or gaining additional reinforcements.

As far as specific planetary bonuses, one of the coolest is the ability to call on Jedi heroes during a fight, the identity of which varies depending on the time period you're in and the side you're playing as. If you're playing for the Empire, you get to summon Darth Vader; Rebels get Luke Skywalker; the Republic forces get to call in Mace Windu; Separatists will unleash Count Dooku.

"You have these nonplayer characters appear on the battlefield with their lightsabers, and they're just going to be slicing and dicing units," explains Tso. "They're pretty powerful. It's nice to hang out behind them and have them deflect all the lasers coming your way." Jedi heroes will not die—instead, they will exit the battlefield once their health drops to a certain point.

"We're going to have something for all Star Wars fans because we cover content from all six movies. There's a lot of freedom in the game," says Tso. "We have a ton of vehicles and units, so there's definitely a lot in there for the hardcore Star Wars fan."

With all of the attention going into the gameplay freedom and cinematic details, *Battlefront*'s appeal should be irresistible to both hardcore gamers and Star Wars junkies.

"The main thing is being able to play in all the battles that we've seen in all the Star Wars movies but to do it in a way that is very open ended and a way that you've never done it before. For example, you've played the battle of Hoth in a lot of different games, but you've never been able to play as the bad guys. You can be in a snowspeeder trying to down an AT-AT, or you can be in an AT-AT. You can be a snowtrooper, or you can be a sniper."

Armed and Fully Operational

Poised to be the ultimate vicarious Star Wars experience ever, *Battlefront* will be a cross-platform extravaganza for the PC, PlayStation 2, and Xbox, and all three versions will be released simultaneously in September with the classic-trilogy DVD boxed set, which will also include a playable demo. —Frank Parisi



JUMP TO LIGHTSPEED

Star Wars Galaxies for the PC takes to the stars (at least) in a remarkable expansion pack.

The *Star Wars Galaxies* developers from LucasArts unveiled their long-awaited space expansion to the game's most diehard hardcore fans at the conclusion of the Star Wars Fan Festival in Anaheim, California, in June. The result? Pure galactic gear.

Owners strapped into chairs as the game's cinematic screen in the Hoth Arena hall room displayed an X-wing streaking through icy, purple-lit clouds over the frozen desert planet of Hoth. The developers proudly showed the fans how easily their built-in in-game editor

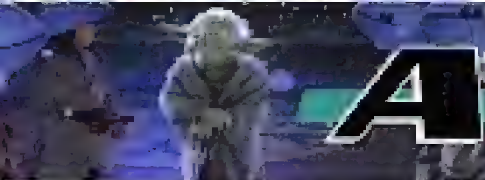
using an amalgamation of SWG's menus and the MMO classes from the beloved X-wing series. The X-wing's original core modules had pre-placed systems for building intricate rectangular frames to replace their classic cylindrical shape. He even gave us a brief wing forward view with the green team and right orbital view as an example with the lightsaber. But the real original Galaxies bit, it's clear that LucasArts' Galactic Explorer the Star Wars Universe in light of the fan's players.

The game's developers showed us how the action shifted to the blue-tinted space between Hoth and its moon, where we entered the Millennium Falcon in the midst of a massive space battle.

Controlling the action with mouse and keyboard, the developers took on a squad of 16 TIE fighters and TIE bombers before showing us how cockpit characters can lose the vision with the flick of the ship, and we were in the game's cockpit. Jim and Luke returned in Star Wars: A New Hope. They can command extensive, planetary forces and upgrade their player ship's abilities and even have a ship to take to the next level.

As if that wasn't new at the Star Wars Fan Festival, we showed it to the Star Wars fan community. And the fans, they can't be any more to get out and play. —Hugh Stables





ASK THE MASTER

Q & A

By Pablo Hidalgo

Is the Dark Jedi Asajj Ventress the same alien species as the bounty hunter Aurra Sing? Also, what are the species of Ephant Mon, Salacious Crumb, and "Yak Face" from Jabba's Palace?

During the past few years, *Star Wars* storytellers have produced a trio of compelling female aliens that all share a chalk-white pallor, a hairless head, and a mysterious past. Yet, none of them are related by species.

In Episode I, the bounty hunter Aurra Sing can be glimpsed as a Podrace spectator. Her species has yet to be established but has such distinguishing characteristics as long, thin fingers. Though Aurra has a baldpate (save for a topknot), the fact that her mother has long reddish hair (as seen in the *Star Wars* comics) suggests that Sing's hairlessness is not genetic.

In 2003, Asajj Ventress appeared in a number of Clone Wars sources. She is a native of the planet Rattatak. Others of her kind can be seen in comics, and they too have bald heads and white skin (though it should be

noted males of the species can grow facial hair).

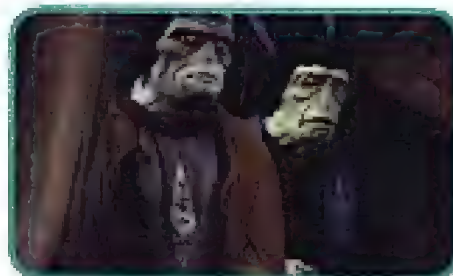
Asajj doesn't have the spindly digits that Aurra Sing has and could

never grow a topknot, thereby effectively torpedoing any theories that the two may be the same species.

Finally, in Episodes II and III there's Sly Moore. Bald head? Check. White skin? Check. She's a part of the Umbaran species, who are reputed to have strange mental abilities. As an interesting aside, since we never saw Sly's hands in Episode II, Hasbro was set to give her birdlike talons in an exercise of creative license. However, this was nixed just in case her hands are visible in Episode III. On set, actress Sandi Finlay, who plays Sly, has normal five-digit hands that are painted white.

As for your other alien inquiries, Ephant Mon is a Chevin from Vinsoth; Salacious Crumb is a Kowakian monkey-lizard from Kowak; and "Yak Face," properly known as Saelt-Marae, is a Yarkora from parts unknown.

In Episode II Attack of the Clones, there is always someone beside Nute Gunray of the same species. Who is he?



The shooting script originally described him as Rune Haako, but that's definitely not the case. The problematic part is that the Neimoidian mask used during the shooting of Episode II is that of a character we saw die onscreen in Episode I! That's Daultay Dofine's face, though his voice is quite different.

An attempt was made to give this new Neimoidian a different name. George Lucas coined the name Gilramos Libkath, which is a mishmash of Costume Supervisor Gillian Libbert and Production Controller Kathryn Ramos' names. But at the 11th hour, Lucas decided instead that the Neimoidian is in fact Lott Dod.

But this raises other problems. Firstly, the Episode II *Visual Dictionary* had already gone to print with the name Libkath. Secondly, the character looks and sounds nothing like Lott Dod.

Libkath was explained away by saying that he does indeed "exist" in the *Star Wars* expanded universe, even if it



DAVID SCHWARTZ

was decided that's not him in Episode II. He made an appearance in the series of Boba Fett young reader novels from Scholastic Inc.

As for Lott, his mysterious new countenance is attributed to a "speeder accident," which came from a story the HoloNet News online site shoehorned into its weekly assortment of news from around the galaxy. The item is still viewable at the following URL:

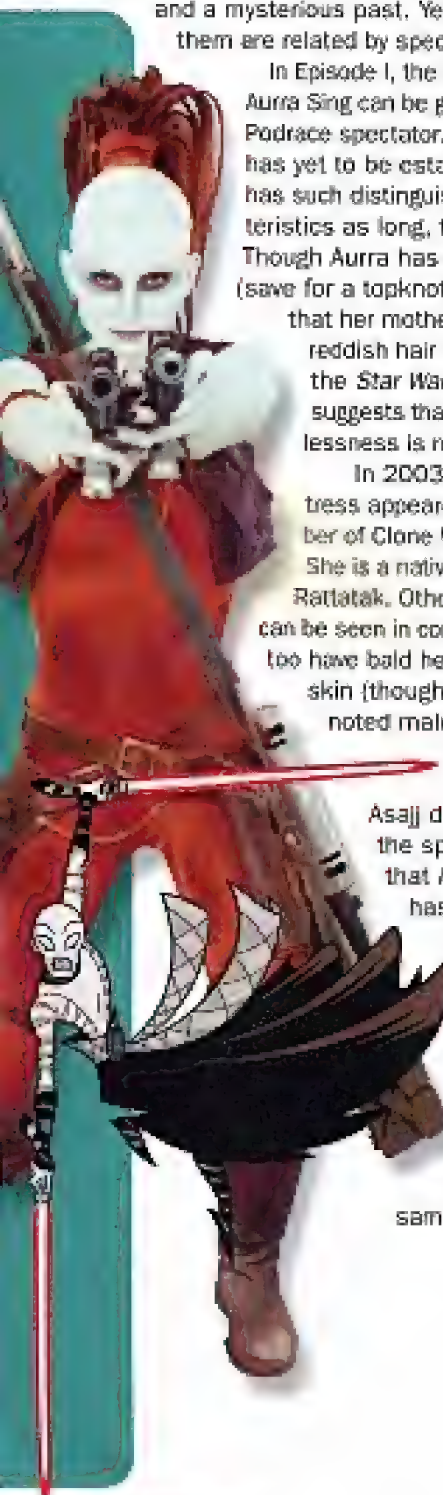
http://www.holonetnews.com/48/news/13328_3.html

Though it doesn't go into specifics, it does describe reconstructive surgery as being in Dod's future. Though why he should be patched back together to look like Daultay Dofine is anyone's guess.

What will likely open a new can of Neimoidian worms is the fact that the Daultay Dofine mask was again used for Episode III, this time as two different characters: a Neimoidian pilot in charge of General Grievous's flagship, and an aide to Nute and Rune seen in the Separatist command centers. Neither of these characters have been permanently named as of yet.

I was watching Return of the Jedi and noticed that Han breaks Boba Fett's jetpack. However, the Star Wars Unleashed figure of Fett has him using his jetpack and blasters to escape the Sarlacc. How was he able to use his jetpack again?

The energetic styling of Hasbro's *Unleashed* figures is fantastic, but they shouldn't be interpreted as depictions of events within continuity. Fett's escape from the Sarlacc has been recounted in a number of sources (and he's done it more than once, if you read every account), but his jetpack did not figure into the Sarlacc's expectations. His weapons and armor, on the other hand....



Do you know if there is still going to be an Episode VII, VIII, and IX?

A very common question often posed at conventions and other Lucasfilm-attended functions is about the "long-promised" sequel saga meant to continue the events after *Return of the Jedi*. And though early interviews during the production of the original trilogy spoke hypothetically about nine or even twelve episodes, the core story of the *Star Wars* saga is six episodes, covering the rise, fall, and redemption of Anakin Skywalker.

So do Episodes beyond *Return of the Jedi* exist? Nothing beyond possible story points and ideas, certainly not fleshed-out story treatments or scripts. Fans often wonder if *Dark Empire* or *The Thrawn Trilogy* were based off those notes or are meant to be Episodes VII, VIII, and IX. That's not the case. Those works are the creation of their respective authors with the guidance of editors at Lucas Licensing. They are not, nor ever were, meant to be George Lucas' definitive vision of what happens next.

SPOTLIGHT QUESTION

In chapters 11 and 17 of the Star Wars: Clone Wars Microseries, Anakin pilots a "specially modified" Delta-7 Jedi starfighter into and out of hyperspace. My question is this: How did he go into hyperspace without a hyperdrive ring? It clearly states in my Attack of the Clones Visual Dictionary that a Delta-7 is too small to have hyperdrive engine. That is why those scenes puzzle me.

The key words are "specially modified." Remember, Anakin is a mechanical genius and his headstrong attitude is not one to accept conventional rules. Most starfighters of that era were not equipped with hyperdrives for two main interrelated reasons: costs and power requirements.

To keep the costs down, Kuat Systems Engineering did not incorporate a hyperdrive engine and astrogation subsystem as part of the standard Delta-7 package. Instead, TransGalMeg Industries, Inc. crafted the hyperspace transport ring separately. A small number of Jedi fighters do indeed have built-in hyperdrives (as witnessed in the *Star Wars: Jedi Starfighter* video game from LucasArts), but these are too costly to mass produce.

Anakin took his Delta-7 and stripped out the power plant, refurbished it to support TransGalMeg drives, and added the drives directly to his fighter's structure. Those big Podracer-style engines at the front of his starfighter are the hyperdrive engines.

These fighters are still too small to carry a dedicated nav computer, so Anakin had to rely on his astromech droid—or in dire instances, the Force—to safely plot courses through hyperspace.



That doesn't mean that Episode III is the end of the road, however. As long as *Star Wars* fans want *Star Wars*, it will continue, and Lucasfilm is in the early stages of examining new ways to carry on the adventure in realms beyond the six theatrical films.

After multiple viewings of the Clone Wars cartoons' final chapter, how can Jedi Knights Ki-Adi-Mundi, Shaak Ti, and Aayla Secura survive the onslaught of General Grievous? Their accompanying Episode III actor's names are all listed on the cast list at starwars.com. The better question is, will this issue be addressed between now and May 19, 2005?

While it's too early to get into specific details, I can assure you that there will be closure to the General Grievous story arc started in Chapter 20 of the *Star Wars: Clone Wars Microseries*. The immense popularity of the Cartoon Network shorts has paved the way for a new series of *Clone Wars* cartoons, and your questions will soon be answered.

I have a question concerning Mandalorians (Jango Fett's people) and their armor. The Emperor's guards on the Death Star in Return of the Jedi have helmets that very much look like the helmets that the Mandalorians wear in Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic. Is there a connection between the two peoples? If so, what is it?

There is a connection. According to the *Imperial Sourcebook*, first published by West End Games in 1989, the armor of the Royal Guards seen in Episodes II, VI,





and the yet-to-be-seen Episode III were inspired by the suits worn by the Mandalorian Death Watch and the Thyrsus Sun Guard.

While this describes the form-fitting suits of armor hidden beneath the red robes, it's also true of the helmets. It would be more accurate to say that older Mandalorian designs inspired the look of the blue Senate guard helmets, which in turn led to the Royal Guard helmets.

Who are the two Jedi who toss light-sabers to Obi-Wan and Anakin at the start of the arena battle in Episode II?

Those are Nicanas Tassu (the long-haired one) and Sephjet Josall (the baldheaded one). Both are named after the Episode II postproduction crewmembers who play their parts—Visual Effects Editor Nic Anastassiou and Assistant Editor Joseph Jett Selly.

The bounty hunter Boushh utters only a few syllables that, when translated, actually mean much more than only a few varying syllables would dictate. How is one to know what each of only a small number of syllables means?

To our untrained human ears, we don't hear much variance in Boushh's phrases. But the Ubese tongue, as filtered through metallic breath masks, spans a greater range of frequencies than human language. There are subfrequency phrases

beyond our range of hearing that color and embellish what we can hear, offering much more information than a few simple syllables. C-3PO, built for translation, can of course hear these subaudible frequencies.

In Insider #76, you say that Zam Wesell is speaking Huttese when she dies. Why is Zam speaking Huttese?

Huttese is an extremely common language in the Star Wars galaxy. The Hutts were spacefarers since before the Republic was even founded, and their native tongue and derivatives thereof became the basis of some of the most ancient trade languages. As the Republic took shape and Basic became the galactic standard language, Huttese nonetheless continued, particularly in the shadier, more distant fringes of the Outer Rim. If you're going to work in the underworld, you'd best learn some Huttese, and it comes as no surprise that Zam speaks it. As to why she would use it on her deathbed, that decision seems personal. Perhaps it was simply her preferred language in which to curse.

I read the following in the original Star Wars novel by George Lucas: "Above her towered the threatening bulk of Darth Vader, red eyes glaring behind the hideous breath mask." Emphasis mine, but I thought nothing of it at the time.

Fast-forward to this past week. I received Insider #76, and therein I noticed two very distinct things. On page 12, there is an illustration of Vader holding up a judge in which Vader has red eyes. On page 89, there is a preview of the Galactic Heroes toys, and both the illustration and the toy show Vader with red eyes.

Did I miss a memo somewhere, or is there going to be a change to Darth Vader when the DVDs roll out this fall? I mean, all of the sudden, there is this marketing shift to a Darth Vader with glowing, red eyes....

Neither Vader's nor your eyes are playing tricks on you. In the spirit of returning to the old-school vibe of the original Star Wars trilogy, we'll be seeing a red-eyed Vader quite a bit these days, but I wouldn't call it a sudden marketing shift.

You see, Vader's eyes were red way back in 1977.





The Vader costumes used in the films have changed over the years. In the absence of any other visual clues, there are subtle cosmetic differences that fans with trained eyes can spot and determine which film they're looking at. Believe it or not, Vader's eyes are red in Episode IV, but it's hard to spot. It'd be more accurate to say they have a reddish tint.

This tint has been exaggerated in many spin-off products, particularly illustrated ones. In the stylized four-color universe of the Marvel Star Wars comics, Vader's eyes practically smolder a cherry red. The limitations of comic book coloring in the late 1970s and early 1980s also meant Vader appeared a deep dark blue, like Tony Stark's hair, but readers knew to accept it as a "glossy black."

Hasbro has been careful to put the red tint into its Vader figures that are supposed to be from Episode IV. Another indicator of an Episode IV Vader is if his

inner cape runs over his shoulder armor. By Episode V, Vader wore the armor over his inner cape and had restrained black lenses.

In The Empire Strikes Back, we see Han Solo strapped to a chair with Darth Vader and stormtroopers standing around him. We then see Han being lowered toward some kind of device with a red light and sparks. My question is what does the Empire do to torture Han? And if it's so bad, why isn't he bleeding or scarred?

The presence of sparks reveals the true nature of the device: It's a form of electrical torture. Han is strapped to a scan grid, a device intended to analyze metals. The scan grid collects data on a substance's thermal and magnetic properties by zapping a series of electrical charges of varying power into the test subject. The machine then observes and

records the effects of these surges. Scan grids are common in mining facilities as they are used to determine the exact nature of ores and containment materials.

Vader had a scan grid on Cloud City specially modified into an interrogation array for the torture of Han Solo. While it is extremely painful, it does not leave any long-term physical damage. Vader was torturing Han in a bid to attract Luke to Cloud City through disturbances in the Force. Had he desired, the torture could have been much worse, but Vader did not want to risk killing the bait.

Do you have a *Star Wars* trivia question that you can't find the answer to? Email it to us at QandA@insider.starwars.com or send it to STAR WARS INSIDER, P.O. Box 23500, Oakland, CA 94623-2350. ATTN: Q&A.



"...it's a form of electrical torture."





TOP 5 REFLECTED MOMENTS FROM THE CLASSIC TRILOGY

By Francis
"Darth" Moos



Luke drops Leia as they swing across the chasm in the original Death Star.



Princess Leia's slave costume malfunctions in the big fight scene aboard Jabba's barge.



Ewok-tossing contest in *Return of the Jedi*



Fearsome attack of the one-legged AT-AT



Han and Chewie get their script pages swapped.

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Job: Lucasfilm Fan Relations

Collecting Star Wars since: 1977

Favorite area of collecting: Cards and posters

Favorite Star Wars collectible: The latest acquisition!

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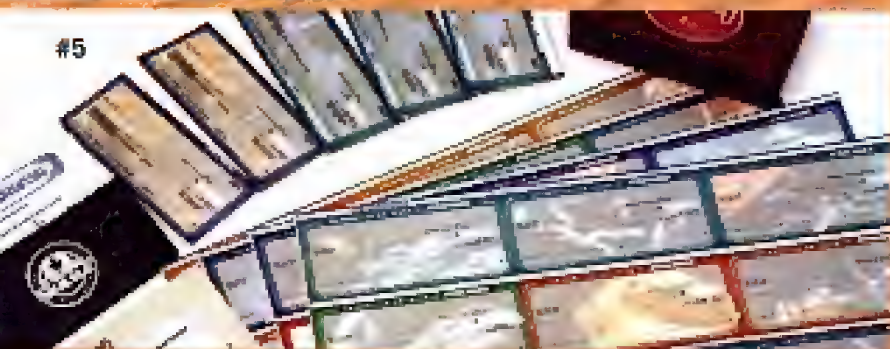
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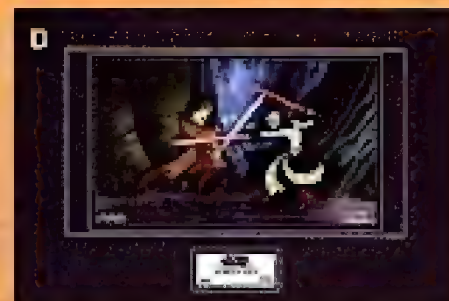
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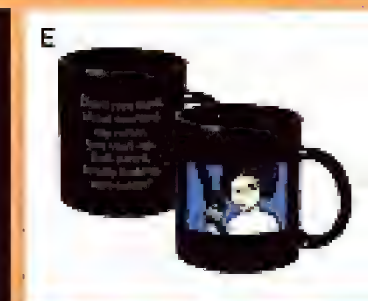
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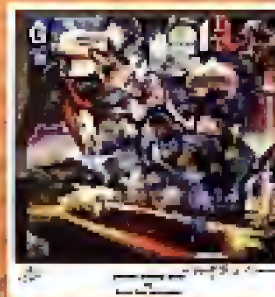


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